



# Report on the results from Governor Monitoring Questionnaires - November 2021

As part of their role, School Governors are required to monitor various aspects of school life. The aim of these questionnaires was to elicit the views of parents / carers on school life, the school environment and the schools response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On 12th October 2021, three separate Questionnaires were sent out to parents / carers via the online Survey Monkey website. Three separate questionnaires were produced to enable the free version of Survey Monkey to be used. The free method does have limitations, and a maximum of 20 responses can be analysed for each questionnaire

The results were analysed on 4th November 2021, and only contains the responses to that date.

## Overview of results

On the whole parents and carers are happy with the School, and the way it is run. Children seem happy, and do not seem to have been overly affected by the pandemic, in their parent or carers view.

Common themes from the written responses include:

- Communication could be better, and with more notice provided for change in dates / events.
- How happy parents are and how well the school handled the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges this brought to teaching and home learning.

More than 50% of the respondents children attended school during lockdown. Most felt this was a huge benefit to not only the children but the parents / carers also.

There were mixed responses to home learning, dependent on personal circumstances including work and other children to look after etc. This is to be expected and it is known that some children are more responsive to home learning than others, with some children engaging really well, and



others not at all. Generally the work packs provided were well received and most children engaged for at least part of the home learning.

## Questionnaire 1

Total respondents - 20.

These questions mirror those previously used which are in line with Ofsted questions. Overall children and parents / carers are happy with the school and the way it is run, feeling children make good progress and the quality of teaching is high. There was a mixed response on the question surrounding appropriateness of homework. This is explored further in the other questionnaires.

See Appendix 1 for full breakdown of responses.

## Questionnaire 2

Total respondents - 21 (only the first 20 could be analysed due to the limitations of SurveyMonkey).

Overall, parents feel the information received from the school regarding progress was positive with 100% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. All respondents would recommend our school to other parents / carers, and feel their child's emotional and spiritual needs are met. Parents / carers feel the school promotes healthy lifestyles, feel their child is offered interesting and enjoyable topics and activities. Parents / carers are comfortable about approaching the school with any concerns. Over three quarters of the respondents are happy with school meal provisions, feeling their child enjoys what is offered, and eats well. 10% disagreed, that their child does not enjoy school meals.

There were some really positive comments when asked what parents / carers liked most about the school. Comments include:

*"The community feel. It is like one big family. I feel happy sending my child here"*

*"ethos, atmosphere and caring. vertical mixing between children. sense of children being fully valued members of the community. Links to St Helen's Church. Excellent teaching staff."*

*"The caring and uniquely 'country' environment the children learn in. The outside has always been incorporated into the classroom (even before Covid) and the children learn to genuinely care for each other and the staff."*

*"Every child matters and is known well by all staff. You are at the heart of our community"*



When asked if there was anything parents / carers would change the following was said:

*"I don't think homework is necessary at this stage."*

*"The use of Facebook is great for those who use it. However some don't and therefore some notices / notice of events which is advertised via Facebook can be missed. Perhaps mass email would work better"*

*"I feel we could get more notice for some date changes and more warning (more than a few days) of things happening"*

*"General Communication can sometimes be a bit lapse about things going on or changesG"*

See Appendix 2 for full breakdown.

## Questionnaire 3

Total respondents - 17

Over half pupils attended school in some capacity during the Covid pandemic. Generally this seemed to benefit children, maintaining some sort of routine during a highly disruptive period.

Parents / carers found this difficult and were thankful for the support from school. Packs and teaching were generally well received although pupils did not engage well in some cases. There seem to be no ongoing issues identified by parents / carers following the period of upheaval, perhaps some social issues immediately following the disruption.

Many respondents have mentioned they would appreciate better notice of events happening, and the use of social media, although very helpful, not all parents / carers use facebook so sometimes things get missed.

Other things mentioned; included:

- Positive feedback Tapestry.
- Very positive feedback on the school and teachers as a whole, and the support offered generally, but specifically during the pandemic
- Class 1 not having a full time teacher
- Early years having 3 teachers within a 12 month period.

See Appendix 3 for full breakdown.



## Conclusion and Next Steps

The questionnaire was generally well received with a positive number of responses. Children, and parents / carers are happy with the school generally, and how the school managed teaching and home learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. They value our school and the atmosphere created. Children along with parents / carers feel safe at school and that their needs are met. The responses from this series of questionnaires was positive and there are a few points which can be discussed further.

**Next steps** and how to respond to the results will be discussed at the Governing Body interim meeting on Tuesday 7th December 2021, 7pm. The report will be updated accordingly.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 - Questionnaire 1 full results

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	n/a	Not answered	Total Respondents
1. My child is Happy at this School	75%	25%						20
2. My child feels safe at this school	80%	20%						20
3. My child makes good progress at this school	60%	40%						20
4. My child is well looked after at this school	90%	10%						20
5. My child is taught well at this school	65%	35%						20
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age	40%	40%	5%		10%		5%	20
7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	70%	25%			5%			20
8. This school deals effectively with bullying	35%	20%			35%	10%		20
9. This school is well led and managed	65%	35%						20

10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise	55%	35%			5%	5%		20
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**Appendix 2 - Questionnaire 2 full results**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	n/a	Not answered	Total Respondents
1. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	58%	36.84%			5.26%			19
2. I would recommend this school to another parent / carer?	89.47%	10.53%						19
3. The school supports my child's emotional and spiritual needs well	63%	36.84%						19
4. The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	68%	31.58%						19
5. My child is offered a range of topics and activities that they find interesting and enjoyable	58%	36.84%			5.26%			19

6. I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, a problem or a complaint	63%	36.84%						19
7. My child enjoys the school dinners and eats well	68%	15.79%	10.53%			5.26%		19
8. I am satisfied with the way Before and After School Care is organised		73.68%	26.32%					19
9. What do you like the most about our school?	<p><i>The caring and uniquely 'country' environment the children learn in. The outside has always been incorporated into the classroom (even before Covid) and the children learn to genuinely care for each other and the staff.</i></p> <p><i>Ethos, atmosphere and caring. vertical mixing between children. sense of children being fully valued members of the community. Links to St Helen's Church. Excellent teaching staff.</i></p> <p><i>The friendly and caring atmosphere, genuine care and interest in the kids as individuals.</i></p> <p><i>The family environment for everyone looking out for each other - something that you can get in a small school.</i></p> <p><i>The community feel. It is like one big family. I feel happy sending my child here.</i></p> <p><i>The teachers.</i></p> <p><i>The teachers and support staff are brilliant and so engaging with parents too.</i></p> <p><i>They have been very quick to spot and help with the particular needs of my child that are not specifically</i></p>							17

	<p><i>academic.</i></p> <p><i>Strong sense of community. Individualised care. Passionate staff.</i></p> <p><i>The low numbers means my child gets enough one to one attention.</i></p> <p><i>Caring and passionate.</i></p> <p><i>Small and caring.</i></p> <p><i>Like a family.</i></p> <p><i>Every child matters and is known well by all staff. You are at the heart of our community.</i></p> <p><i>The smaller size, the pupils are like a big family all together, from nursery to year 4, which creates a lovely atmosphere and environment.</i></p> <p><i>Small school and feel like all the kids have a good relationship with all years.</i></p> <p><i>Intimate and caring atmosphere - caring for whole family.</i></p>	
<p>10. Is there anything you would change (positive or negative)?</p>	<p><i>I don't think homework is necessary at this stage.</i></p> <p><i>The use of Facebook is great for those who use it. However some don't and therefore some notices / notice of events which is advertised via Facebook can be missed. Perhaps mass email would work better.</i></p> <p><i>Children mature at different rates, and this reflects in their behaviour and learning - particularly when comparing boys and girls. I would like to see greater understanding that children are different in this way, and that doesn't have to be a bad thing.</i></p>	



	<p><i>I feel we could get more notice for some date changes and more warning (more than a few days) of things happening.</i></p> <p><i>Flexible arrangement of hours when starting Reception.</i></p> <p><i>No, the school has been brilliant.</i></p> <p><i>More advance warning of activities and events for the term.</i></p> <p><i>General Communication can sometimes be a bit lapse about things going on or changes.</i></p> <p><i>More use of website/email/social media to communicate with parents. Perhaps a reflection on us but we are often losing paper copies that are sent home and there is often so much. Could important dates/news be posted on website or via email?</i></p> <p><i>Great school - nothing to change.</i></p> <p><i>I liked the private Facebook group and tapestry to see what they've been doing in class.</i></p>		
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**Appendix 3 - Questionnaire 3 full results**

	Yes	No	Respondents
1. Did your child attend school during the Covid pandemic (e.g. as a key worker child)?	62.50%	37.50%	16

<p>2. What did you enjoy the most about home learning / your child being in school during school closures due to Covid?</p>	<p><i>It gave our child consistency and time to socialise with other children.</i></p> <p><i>That he was in school! Home learning was a challenge and then some.</i></p> <p><i>The extension topics and chance to do our own thing. Spending more time with them at home.</i></p> <p><i>Home learning - spending time with the kids and finding ways to make progress and engage with what they're learning and seeing how that develops their understanding of what they're learning.</i></p> <p><i>Seeing what work they were doing.</i></p> <p><i>Initially we weren't in as a key worker child. Home learning was awful. Lack of engagement from child, trying to work and look after other children was impossible. We did what we could. Next lockdown attended school and was much more pleasurable for everyone.</i></p> <p><i>Setting aside the time each day to engage with my child and work together.</i></p> <p><i>The work packs were great, with lots of different topics and really clear instructions.</i></p> <p><i>The children felt it was a very special time, they felt safe and felt very lucky to be able to continue going to school with some friends. The teachers transmitted a sense of calm, safety and normality. The three of them say it was "making the best of a bad situation".</i></p> <p><i>I was able to work.</i></p> <p><i>None of it.</i></p> <p><i>Safe and less pupils meant even more one to one which was massively noticed in progression.</i></p> <p><i>Trying to work and educate/look after a child/children was awful. Very appreciative of school being open and available to us. School made life feel normal for the children when everything going on outside was</i></p>	<p>16</p>
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	<p><i>chaotic and uncertain.</i></p> <p><i>We did some home learning and some school learning and this combination worked well- the school could not have been more supportive.</i></p> <p><i>I thought the at home learning was extremely well planned and easy to follow, and I was put at ease by the great care offered at school when she was there regarding the pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>The teaching staff went above and beyond to care for key workers children. Real family atmosphere while still learning and growing.</i></p>	
<p>3. What did you find difficult during home learning / having your child at school during Covid?</p>	<p><i>I didn't always know what what was expected, i.e. how much work</i></p> <p><i>Trying to teach them when they don't view you as a 'teacher'. Juggling teaching children who needed your input with working from home.</i></p> <p><i>Really stressful getting them to complete a set number of work sheets. Child required 1 to 1 support and hard to look after other children at the same time - impossible to do any paid work. Really appreciated not having too much work set, and not having zoom lessons at set times.</i></p> <p><i>Difficult to motivate the child as they see home as home, not school. Also finding the time to home school as both parents were still working full time.</i></p> <p><i>trying to juggle effectively three jobs in one. Work, home schooling and looking after other siblings.</i></p> <p><i>Trying to juggle looking after my younger child while helping my older child with homework.</i></p> <p><i>We found the Oak Academy lessons got very monotonous and our child wasn't that interested in them. He also found their PSHE lessons quite intense.</i></p> <p><i>We worried about putting staff at risk as we both work in the hospital. Shift patterns and work demands where uncertain but school offered all the help and flexibility they could.</i></p>	

	<p><i>When at home impossible to work!</i></p> <p><i>My son would not take part at all in home learning.</i></p> <p><i>Not having wrap around care on.</i></p> <p><i>Reduced hours and no after/before school care. Not being able to come into school to help settle children. The small amount of home learning we did was stressful and traumatic. We didn't have access to suitable devices to follow or use online resources and our children did not engage well with them (they aren't used to using screens).</i></p> <p><i>Having 2 children of different ages but both needing constant support was very trying.</i></p> <p><i>Less concentration from my child at home.</i></p> <p><i>No difficulties.</i></p>	
<p>4. What, if anything, would you do differently (if there were to be another pandemic and school closures)?</p>	<p><i>Nothing whilst they are in school. More guidance on amount of work expected if at home.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing - I think it was handled very well by the school.</i></p> <p><i>It felt really hard knowing that other children were at school and picking up work was difficult when the child could see their friends playing. Maintaining some social links is really important e.g. through outside play with other children, zoom lessons for the class. In general I felt the approach should be about keeping the children happy, doing enough to extend their skills but using this as an opportunity to do other things beyond the curriculum eg go for walks, explore nature, read about topics of interest to them etc. I really hope we don't have to face school closures again, it made me value school even more.</i></p> <p><i>Not really, we probably would do similar again (e.g. dad doing home school!) but make sure that we'd have more work material / resources available.</i></p>	

	<p><i>Try and find more time for home schooling - not sure how though!</i></p> <p><i>Nothing. I'd make sure children attended school if they could the routine for them is so important</i></p> <p><i>I can't think of anything, the school was so supportive.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing, we found the approach used very effective overall.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing.</i></p> <p><i>Carry on as before.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing different of he was able to he would still come to school. I feel the school should remain open.</i></p> <p><i>Try to be more honest with ourselves and school about what is realistic/achievable.</i></p> <p><i>my husband and I are both key workers and school were very supportive of our children and our needs.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing.</i></p>	
<p>5. Do you feel like your child has any ongoing issues following the Covid pandemic? E.g. through missed school/ through disruption of normal routine if in school.</p>	<p><i>No, I think he took it all in his stride.</i></p> <p><i>Not anything that gives us significant worries.</i></p> <p><i>No, initially we noticed some behavioral issues but these settled down.</i></p> <p><i>No, but at the time suffered by not being at school.</i></p> <p><i>Not significantly. If anything more social development than educational.</i></p> <p><i>I think all children have suffered and are probably behind but hopefully they will recover quickly.</i></p>	

	<p><i>no ongoing issues - short spell of difficulty separating from parents which may have been post pandemic related.</i></p> <p><i>The pandemic has had a big impact on him socially, which is an area he struggles with anyway.</i></p>	
<p>6. What could we improve on?</p>	<p><i>As, I said before I think Whitley got the balance absolutely right.</i></p> <p><i>Having a childcare/after school option from 8am - 6pm is really helpful even though I would very rarely need it. I am missing the after school clubs until 4.30 as they were really fun and offered something different and valuable for the children.</i></p> <p><i>If talking about home schooling - A regular video catch up with teacher and other pupils, say weekly or fortnightly would have been good, just to keep in touch and speak directly about the school work.</i></p> <p><i>It isn't always clear when work was ready to pick up, and what work had to be returned to school. In the last closure there seemed to be no work that was required to be returned which I thought was a shame.</i></p> <p><i>Provision of more timely notice of events / change of dates of things.</i></p> <p><i>I can't honestly think of anything in particular as the school handles the situation so well.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing, as far as we are concerned.</i></p> <p><i>Not having experienced on home learning can't comment on the school provision for it. Keep being an amazing first school!</i></p> <p><i>Continuity of teaching. 3 teachers over the course of 18 months wasn't ideal.</i></p> <p><i>Wrap around care.</i></p> <p><i>I think you did amazingly well everything considered - you took a pragmatic and balanced approach which</i></p>	

	<p><i>was much appreciated by us.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing, it was handled excellently.</i></p> <p><i>Nothing.</i></p>	
<p>Any other comments? (refer to other questions if you ran out of space).</p>	<p><i>We love tapestry for seeing what our child is doing at school. This is very much appreciated as he struggles to tell me what he has been doing.</i></p> <p><i>I think the staff are to be congratulated on how they handled working during the pandemic. I was lucky to be able to put my child back into school fairly quickly and the pure fact that the school was open to taking as many children back as possible deserves a huge amount of praise and recognition.</i></p> <p><i>We found the staff did a lot to try to support the kids, despite having to deal with both teaching in school and providing material for home schooling, but it was a little frustrating that the assumption was that mum was doing the home schooling and therefore got all the communications</i></p> <p><i>We feel that the school's overall approach to the pandemic has been fantastic. The support has been great and the flexible approach to needing to have him in and out of school for shielding reasons has been very much appreciated. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work.</i></p> <p><i>Not entirely convinced that it's appropriate for class 1 to be without a fully qualified teacher on a Friday. I think an external teacher should be brought in or a full time appointment be made</i></p> <p><i>Key was good communication and working together throughout.</i></p> <p><i>You all did an amazing job during all of this we couldn't be happier.</i></p>	