



Abbey Road Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mrs. Ly Toom

Parental Consultation – The Curriculum. Feedback to parents.

Many thanks for your responses to this questionnaire. Earlier this term, the children provided us with their feedback to very similar questions during pupil interviews and we will look at their responses in relation to yours as we plan for the new academic year.

In all, 78 parent questionnaires were returned.

Question 1: Which area of the curriculum does your child enjoy the most?

It would be fair to say that all areas received a mention to a greater or lesser degree! Maths, Science, Art, Literacy, ICT and PE all featured very strongly. Several responses also mentioned learning about nature, using the outdoors and practical activities.

Question 2: Which topic/theme has your child particularly enjoyed and why? Which topics have been most talked about at home?

Again, a huge list of topics were mentioned, which was lovely to hear. So many parental comments reflected the enthusiasm their children had for learning in these areas.

All of the topics listed below received mentions from multiple families.

Buildings and Construction – Year 1

Mr Men - EYFS

The Great Fire of London – Year 2

Romans – Year 4

World War II – Year 6

Victorians – Year 4

Volcanoes – Year 3

Rocks – Year 3

Planets – Year 5

Looking at the responses, it would seem that we have a number of keen historians in school!

Many parents commented that the children particularly enjoyed a theme with a 'day' attached to it, such as Roman Day or Victorian Day.

Question 3: Which theme or topic has your child enjoyed completing any work or research on at home?

The list of topics mentioned was very similar to that above. An interesting point made by many parents was that the children particularly enjoyed those 'topic' homework projects which had an element of choice to them. For example – apple homework in Year 3 or The Great Fire of London in Year 2. In these cases, the children were given a list of possible tasks to complete over a number of weeks or a free choice of a project to complete by a certain date.



Question 4: Are there any topics that your child has not particularly enjoyed or which you feel could be developed further?

The overwhelming majority of parents left this response blank or responded with none, which was reassuring in many ways. A couple of parents mentioned that they felt there was repetition in some of the topics covered across some year groups, which we will now aim to tackle during the curriculum review. In some topics, the National Curriculum contains content on the same area, which is intended to further develop skills in the subsequent year groups. It is important that we reflect these differences in the learning shared with the children.

Question 5: How do you feel about the use of any trips, visits, 'Wow' activities or first hand experiences have worked as a way to inspire learning?

Again the overwhelming response here was yes, yes and yes! It was clear from the comments written that parents felt that the level of enthusiasm and enjoyment in learning was promoted by the use of all of these methods. Many parents felt that these experiences made learning memorable for the children and also helped with the level of conversation and communication at home! Others also mentioned that the use of outside providers – experts in their area – really brought the topic to life. Residential visits were also mentioned by a number of parents here, especially Hathersage.

Particular favourites shared are listed below:

Beaumanor Hall – Year 6

The Galleries of Justice – Year 5

Southwell Workhouse – Year 4

Visits to the library – KS1

Hathersage – Year 4

Whole school days were also felt to be very effective in terms of bringing learning to life, motivation and enthusiasm. Many parents commented that their child particularly enjoyed dressing up for certain themes and especially World Book Day, when children had enjoyed making their own costumes.

Question 6: Have you attended any of our 'Share Our Learning' events that you have felt have been very successful?

49 – yes

15 – not attended

2 – not sure

12 – no response

The vast majority of parents who had not attended said that they would have liked to attend but could not due to work commitments.

The response from the parents who had attended was very positive in the vast majority of cases. They commented that it had been lovely to share in the learning and find out about the areas which had been studied. One parent commented about the depth of learning shared and that they were amazed at how much the children knew and said, ***"I couldn't believe how much had been crammed into a term."*** Many parents felt that the enthusiasm and pride displayed by children during the events was great. ***"The most recent ones were amazing,"*** was a lovely comment to receive. A common theme was that the most successful events were focused around a theme which involved either a whole class presentation, like an assembly or a 'class museum' where parents walked around each display and were taught by all of the class.



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Particular favourites mentioned a number of times were:

Hathersage debate – Year 4

Mother's Day – EYFS

China – Year 3 (Parents seemed to especially enjoy the chopstick challenge!)

Grandparent's tea – Year 1

Crime and Punishment- Year 5

A few parents said that the point of these events was not really clear and felt that they were not necessary as they had already had a chance to look at books during Parents Evening appointments. This is something which we will review as a staff. The main purpose is to give the children a real purpose and audience to share their learning with and this is why we vary these events and sometimes present our learning to a partner class in another year group instead.

The following pages show responses to questions asked specifically about the information received by parents from school and parental views on homework.



Nottinghamshire
County Council



BRITISH COUNCIL
International School Award



Information provided by school.

Listed below are parental responses to the questions around the information provided by school.

Do you find the following useful and informative?	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Half termly/termly learning letter	40	33		1
Curriculum expectations for each year group (sent out at Parents Evening)	26	42	5	1
Website updates – reports & photos	28	41	5	1
Curriculum information evenings – eg: phonics evening for parents (September 2016)	23	36	2	
Curriculum information on the website – curriculum plans for each year group & links to National Curriculum pages	16	44	8	2
Information regarding the changes to statutory assessments (Years 6 only)	16	10		1

Feedback:

Again, the vast majority of respondents here were very pleased with the level of information provided by school. Comments included: ***“It is great to be kept updated by all the above methods.”*** and ***“It’s lovely to see all the photographs on the school website as it prompts my child to tell me about her day.”***

Parents expressed some concerns around the school website with some feeling it was not updated regularly enough and that some year groups had more detail in their curriculum letter than others. Other parents also found the information at Parents’ Evening about curriculum expectations confusing whilst others felt this was not detailed enough and not specific enough to their child.

This is obviously a difficult area in which to strike a balance for parents and one in which we need to be more consistent as a school. This is an area for us to look at in preparation for the new academic year. It was evident from the responses on the ticksheet that the vast majority of parents felt pleased by the level of information provided.



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It seems that the issue of homework continues to divide opinion amongst parents. There was no obvious pattern of preference in the rankings suggested in answer to the questions asked below. One parent commented that, **“All of them are of equal importance – I like the fact that you do a variety throughout the year.”** Many parents said that they found it difficult to rank the different tasks for the same reason.

Types of homework task	Rank from 1 – 5 in order of importance (with 1 being the most important)	Rank from 1 – 5 in order of how this activity engages/motivates your child (with 1 being the most engaging)
Reading (individual reading and/or reading comprehension)		
Spelling/phonics – learning sounds or words		
Number practice (eg: counting or learning times tables)		
Maths & English worksheet activities / online tasks		
Creative projects. Homework tasks to make or create something based on a class topic.		

To sum up: Most parents seem to feel that the ‘traditional’ homework around reading, times table/number practice and spellings is useful and important. The majority of parents who responded felt that the amount of homework set was ‘about right’ for their children. The ‘Busy Things’ website was a definite hit in KS1. Worksheets were generally unpopular and a number of parents felt that sometimes limited feedback on these caused a lack of motivation in their children.

Creative projects were a bit like marmite! One parent commented that creative homework could be very difficult if as a parent you were not especially creative. Many others felt that it was a good task for their children as they enjoyed expressing themselves and their learning creatively. A clear consensus was around ‘choice’ homework. In the year groups that had used this approach the feedback was consistently positive. Parents said that children had enjoyed having the freedom to choose from a list of tasks or to demonstrate their research in any way they wanted. This is obviously an approach which we should consider using across the whole school. The recent decline in ‘holiday homework’ was also celebrated by a number of parents.

Many thanks for all of the returned surveys and for taking the time to discuss this with your child. It will help us to continue to develop our practice and guide us in the ways to work together to help achieve the best outcomes for everyone at Abbey Road.

Best wishes,
Mrs Horton

