WORK TOGETHER, AIM HIGH, SHINE BRIGHT

BRIDEKIRK DOVENBY SCHOOL
Dovenby
Cockermouth
Cumbria
CA13 0PG
Telephone: 01900 829889
Headteacher: Mrs J. E. Fish
June 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you so much to all those who completed the school questionnaire earlier this academic year. I was pleased that most families responded in an overwhelmingly positive way.

The governors and I have considered the responses and have thought carefully about how we can further improve the provision we have on offer. Some of these actions may become part of our ongoing school improvement planning.

From all of your responses, the first and final questions stood out;

100% of parents indicated that their children are happy at this school and 100% of parents would recommend our school to others. This makes me feel very proud, and so incredibly pleased that all our children enjoy school as ultimately this is what is fundamental to learning!

Numbers were slightly lower in some areas around out of school activities, and cultural development. The governors, staff and I have considered this and will decide where we can make further improvements and of course if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us.
There has been a Behaviour section added to the website – please take some time to look at this and chat to your child about it. [Behaviour Expectations | Bridekirk Dovenby CE Primary School (secure-primarysite.net)]

Some of the responses highlighted, 'Don't *Know* 'as the answer so the chair of governors and I have provided a brief summary of information that may be useful to you. You will find this in the table below.

I do hope that you find this process helpful and I would once again like to thank you for your time in filling in your responses and reading this letter.

Kind regards,

Julia. E. Fish Rose Rowlands

Mrs. Julia. E Fish Mrs. Rose. Rowlands
Head Teacher Chair of Governors.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	
1. My child is happy at this school.	100%			
I am incredibly pleased that all parents who responded to this questionnaire feel their child is happy in school. If a child is happy they will learn, so happiness is my ultimate aim for all of our children.				
2. My child feels safe at this school.	96%		4%	
Your child's safety is paramount to me and the rest of the staff. If you are worried about this in any way or have any questions about school policies or how we do this day to day then please get in touch. You may have ideas that you would like to share to make our school an even safer place to be. The governors and I are happy to listen to any suggestions.				
3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	98%		2%	
There are many ways we try to ensure all children are well behaved… good behaviour is an expectation at Bridekirk School and is monitored by both staff and governors. As with all areas of school life, sometimes children make mistakes or get things wrong and when this happens we need to find out why as soon as possible. I hope that our school is a nurturing, safe environment where children learn how they can manage their behaviour because they have support from adults around them. This year we have updated our behaviour ladder and golden rules which ensure that all staff and all children have the same expectations. You can find information about this here – Behaviour Expectations | Bridekirk Dovenby CE Primary School (secure-primarysite.net) The children are taught explicitly about relationship education every week in their Jigsaw lessons and in assembly time. Positive behaviour stems from ensuring good relationships and understanding values and how these may influence different social situations. On the website, you can find a copy of our behaviour policy and procedures; Policies / Procedures & GDPR | Bridekirk Dovenby CE Primary School this outlines, in more detail, how we address behaviour within our school. Please take time to talk to your children and ask them about this.				
4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	16%		4b. My child has not been bullied.	84%
Bullying is a word that all children hear as we proactively educate them to recognise it for themselves and within others. It is important that as a school we maintain a clear definition of what bullying is; *Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online.* What is bullying? (youtube.com) Whilst bullying is something that no child should have to experience and we would hope it would not happen in our school, we are pleased to hear that parents feel that we are taking these matters seriously and they have been dealt with appropriately. As a school, we have adopted the antibullying charter and there is a copy in each classroom. It has been shared with all children and they have each signed it. You can read a copy here 10 Key Principles (anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk) Assemblies, computing lessons and Jigsaw lessons all help educate children directly regarding the dangers of online bullying and everyday friendships as we believe prevention / education is far better than cure.				
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	98%	2%		

As a school we try hard to keep you informed about what your children are learning in school.
Below I have outlined ways we aim to try and ensure you know what your children will learn throughout the year as a reminder.

- At the beginning of each new year we hold a **parent's information night** for each class. During this time the teacher discusses the year ahead, provides a timetable and an outline of any significant events that will take place. A copy of the PowerPoint used by each teacher is then made available on the website.
- Each half term, a more detailed **curriculum plan** is saved onto the website by each class teacher outlining exactly what will be covered in each subject.
- More information is shared about how each curriculum subject is taught under the curriculum - subject icon on the website Our Curriculum | Bridekirk Dovenby CE Primary School
- Class teachers upload events and images onto **Seesaw** and **The Latest News** area of the website.



6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	81%		6b. I have not raised any concerns	19%

I am very pleased that you feel we deal with concerns properly, as the sooner we hear of worries the sooner they can be resolved. We always endeavour to respond in a professional manner and try to understand the situation from various points of view. Remember that I have an open-door policy and will always try to see you at the soonest available opportunity.
If for any reason you don't receive a reply straight away, please be patient and contact us again if time does elapse. We hope occasions like this will be few and far between!

7. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)? (yes or no)	YES 4%	NO 96%		
7b. If yes, 'My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	1 yes		1 unsure	

Mrs Taylor is our school SEN coordinator and I am always on hand to discuss support if you have any questions. There is a section of the website dedicated to SEND where you may find additional information. SEND | Bridekirk Dovenby CE Primary School

8. The school has high expectations for my child.	95%	2%	4%	

A couple of parents feel unsure about this answer, so I would like to affirm that we absolutely do have high expectations for each individual child in all aspects of school life; these high expectations are based upon their specific needs. We spend time truly getting to know the children that attend our school so that we can provide for them academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually.
Academically, we aim to achieve above national and our external assessment data shows that we are consistently able to do this and have done so since 2017
Performance Data | Bridekirk Dovenby CE Primary School
And yet, we always remain realistic and ensure children are comfortable in themselves and happy. We spend time focusing on social development as well as academic. Our benchmarks are high in all areas, for example attendance and wellbeing, as these significantly impact on learning. Children need to be in the right place emotionally in order to learn. You have told me that your children are happy at school and that is why I believe they are in the best place to achieve well. I also have high expectations of my staff and believe at Bridekirk we have an exceptional team who want to give their best. If we model high expectations to the children they in turn will do the same.

9. My child does well at this school.	98%	2%		
We will always make ourselves available to talk to families if your child is unhappy or there is any aspect of school in which you feel unsure or concerned. If you feel your child is not achieving in a specific area of curriculum then do please also talk to their class teacher through seesaw or contacting the school office.				
10. The school lets me know how my child is doing.	96%	4%		
Over the year, we hold two parent meetings and send out a final report. It has been nice to resume face to face meetings this year and this hopefully enables you to have the opportunity to view your child's books and see first-hand what they are achieving in class. I know the teachers also send messages and comment on work via Seesaw. You are also free to contact them should you have any worries about progress and achievement. Also, please get in touch with us if you feel you are not receiving information from school that others are getting. We may just need to update your contact details.				
11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	98%		2%	
 The school website outlines every subject that is taught Either by staff in school or specialist staff who visit. There is information available about each subject describing its Intent, Implementation and Impact. You will also be able to find out how each subject is enriched both within and outside the school day. Additional to these subjects you will find information about wellbeing, enrichment opportunities and outdoor learning. Underpinning all these subjects are our four curriculum drivers which we feel are bespoke to our school setting and help us focus on the wider aims of the curriculum. Our Curriculum | Bridekirk Dovenby CE Primary School				
12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	80%	9%	11%	How can we improve this and provide a better offer?
We do offer a selection of clubs each half term, some run after school and some during the school day. Not every club is available to every child, but over the year we try to ensure we have offered something for everyone. A lot of the sports clubs are offered more in the summer term when the weather improves as indoor space is limited. Cost also plays a part when we organise clubs as our TA staff are paid until 3.15pm, so if they choose to run a club we have to pay them or bring in someone else like a coach to run the club which also costs. Sometimes we have volunteers who are able to offer a club over 5/6 wks. and we are incredibly grateful when we receive these proposals. If your child would like more clubs and you could support us by offering to help run one please send me an email outlining your offer and I will be in touch! There is also our Out Of School Club (OOSC) which children can access every day and provides a wealth of activities to keep them entertained.				

13. The school supports my child's wider personal development.	93%	2%	5%	
We try to provide a wide variety of **enrichment activities** across the school which are spread throughout the year. I am mindful of costs and the time in the school day but some of what we fit in includes ; residentials, art and activity weeks, school council, daily collective worship & focus time, buddies, sensory garden opportunities, pantomimes, services in church, trips, skiing, Jigsaw and My Happy Minds lessons, visitors in school, musical instrument lessons, choir, pen pals in Uganda, nurture group, social intervention groups, cooking, shopping trips, FOBDS activities and charity events etc. etc. However, we always welcome fresh ideas and support! One aspect of our schools' vision for improvement is helping pupils to better understand, appreciate and respect difference in the world and its people. We have been working on improving our teaching on diversity in the following ways: through the RE scheme we use which teaches RE through Theology, Philosophy and Human Sciences, through the use of our PSHE lessons and assemblies, by inviting guests from other cultures in to school, via the books that are chosen in English and during quality text time. We are looking to improve links with Anti-Racist Cumbria and further develop the links we have with international schools.				
14. I would recommend this school to another parent. (yes or no)	100%			
Thank you! We do need you to recommend us to others as we have to attract families from out of catchment in order to maintain our numbers and the school as we know it now!				