WORK TOGETHER, AIM HIGH, SHINE BRIGHT

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

09/12/22

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you so much to all those who completed the school questionnaire last month. I was pleased that 79 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 take time and I will try to address them with you in the coming months through a 'Parent Newsletter'.

As you will have noticed, I have already actioned some of your suggestions, for example the OOSC breakfast now incorporates a greater variety of choice and I have sent out instructions on how to provide consent or acknowledgement of a trip without a voluntary payment being made within School Money.

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 school activities, subjects, bullying and personal development. The governors, staff and I will consider these areas and decide where we can make further improvements and of course if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to send them in.

Some of the responses highlighted, 'Don't *Know* 'as the answer. This is why we want to re-introduce our 'Parent Newsletter' in the New Year, so that you are up-to-date regarding life in school. In the meantime, the governors and I have provided a brief summary of information that you may be useful. You will find this in the table below.

I do hope that you have found this process helpful and I would once again like to thank you for your time as well as wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year,

Kind regards,

Julia. E. Fish Hodgson

Mrs. Julia. E Fish — Head Teacher
Mrs. Julie. Hodgeson — Chair of Governors.

1. My child is happy at this school.

I am incredibly pleased that all parents who responded 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.

Your child's safety is paramount to me and the rest of the staff and 99% of you feel confident that your child is safe in school. If you are worried about this in any way please do come and talk to me so that together it can be resolved and any fears can be allayed. 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.

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. Our behaviour ladder and golden rules ensure that all staff and all children have the same expectations. The children are taught explicitly about relationship education every week in Jigsaw lessons and 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; this will outline how we address behaviour within our school. https://www.bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk/policies-procedures-gdpr/

4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.

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.
https://youtu.be/U8iX-rstY9I
It is really important to us that children (and adults) 'speak out' if they feel there is anything that resembles bullying happening in or out of school. This needs to be addressed at the source and should not involve rumours or hearsay. If you are one of the 6% who may have a concern or would like to talk to me regarding fears around bullying, whether current or historic, please do phone and ask to speak to me directly and we can arrange an appointment.
As a school, we have adopted the anti-bullying 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 of it here https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/preventing-bullying/10-key-principles
Assemblies, computing and Jigsaw lessons all help educate children directly regarding the dangers of online bullying and everyday friendship 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.

Below are some of the ways we aim to do try and do this;

- At the beginning of each academic year we hold a Parent's Information Night for each class. Here, 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 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 https://www.bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk/our-curriculum/
- 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.

I am very pleased that 99% of 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. Please remember that I have an open-door policy and will always try to see you at the soonest available opportunity.
If for any reason the office misses an email or 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)
7b. If yes, 'My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

Mrs Taylor is our school SEN coordinator and I am also 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.
https://www.bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk/send/

8. The school has high expectations for my child.

A few parents answered 'Don't Know', for 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 individual 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 https://www.bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk/performance-data/
And yet, we also ensure children are comfortable in themselves and are proud whatever they achieve; 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 lean. 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. Even during Covid our on-line learning ensured children continued to achieve despite the lockdown situation. Our high ambition was noted by Amanda Spielman when she came to visit us.

9. My child does well at this school.

I think I have covered much of this above, your responses confirmed that not a single parent believes their child doesn't do well. But again, if you feel your child is not achieving in a specific area then do please talk to their class teacher.

10. The school lets me know how my child is doing.

Over the year, we hold two parent meetings and send out a final report. I appreciate some parents would like the option of a face to face meeting and we will try to facilitate this in the spring term for our progress meetings. I will also ensure that over the year you have the opportunity to view your child's books and see first-hand what they are achieving in class. I know the teachers send messages and comment on work via Seesaw which is a platform whereby you are also free to contact them, should you have any worries about progress and achievement.

11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.



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 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.
https://www.bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk/our-curriculum/ The website explains these in more detail.



12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

We try to 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 ensure we have offered something for everyone. Cost also plays a part when we organise clubs. Our TA staff are paid until 3.15pm, so if they or a PE coach choose to run a club it does cost. Sometimes we have volunteers who are able to offer a club over 5/6 wks; we are incredibly grateful when we receive these offers. If you could support by offering to help run a club please send me an email outlining your offer and I will be in touch! Remember, there is also our Out Of School Club (OOSC) children can access every day which provides a wealth of activities to keep them entertained.

13. The school supports my child's wider personal development.

I have covered some of the ways we aim to achieve this in other comments, but others include; 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. Thank you so much to all those of you who help us achieve this.

14. I would recommend this school to another parent.

100% of you replied YES to this question! 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!