

Parent Survey Autumn Term 2018



Thank you to all parents who completed the parent survey this term. We had 149 respondents who said the following:

My child is happy at this school: *97% strongly agree or agree. (3% neither agree nor disagree).*

My child feels safe at this school: *97% strongly agree or agree. (1% neither agree nor disagree).*

My child makes good progress at this school: *95% strongly agree or agree. (5% neither agree nor disagree).*

My child is well-looked after at this school: *95% strongly agree or agree. (4% neither agree nor disagree).*

My child is taught well at this school: *97% strongly agree or agree. (3% neither agree nor disagree).*

My child receives appropriate homework for their age: *82% strongly agree or agree. (12% neither agree nor disagree).*

This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved: *90% strongly agree or agree. (8% neither agree nor disagree).*

This school deals effectively with bullying: *51% strongly agree or agree. (43% neither agree nor disagree).*

This school is well-led and managed: *90% strongly agree or agree. (8% neither agree nor disagree).*

This school responds well to any concerns I raise: *85% strongly agree or agree. (13% neither agree nor disagree).*

I receive valuable information from the school about progress: *91% strongly agree or agree. (7% neither agree nor disagree).*

Would you recommend this school to another parent? *Yes 95%, Undecided 5%.*

Key findings – What is going well:

Quality and range of curriculum opportunities making learning fun
School values
Extra-curricular activities
Child's happiness
Teachers and the pastoral care
Supportive of pupils and parents
Facilities

Key findings – Even better if ...

Better clubs' booking system was in place
Homework expectations were clarified
Events and productions were not in working hours
Communication continued to improve
The cost of trips was reduced or spread evenly across the year

School updates:

Year 6:

This has been difficult to bring about due to previous Worcestershire experiences when converting to primary. The DeMontfort School will guarantee places in Year 7 at their school if parents choose for their child to stay at Bengeworth for Year 6 (ie a secondary pathway). The DeMontfort School has also reassured other first schools that they will retain their Y6 option so that all parents have a choice. Bengeworth is currently waiting for go-ahead from Worcestershire Local Authority and the proposal will go to the Regional Schools' Commissioner to consider before Christmas so that parents can make an informed decision about where to send their children either 2019 or 2020. Year 6 at Bengeworth will most likely be initially in temporary accommodation for a 2-form entry and we will know the outcome by end of January 2019.

Nursery bid:

Our previous application was unsuccessful and we missed the required criteria by 1%. School appealed the decision, but this was turned down and so we have re-submitted the bid with some very good letters of support. If Bengeworth is successful in securing funding to build a nursery, we will also be able to provide much-needed community facilities.

Multi Academy Trust news:

Bengeworth MAT currently consists of Bengeworth Academy and Bretforton Village School, but are currently looking for other schools to join. There has been significant improvement in teaching and learning at Bretforton as a result of working together. As a result of MAT status, Mr Coaché's role has changed to Executive Head, Mrs Potter is Head of School at King's Road and Mrs Shaw is Head of School at Burford Road. The school is also becoming a Teacher Training Centre in partnership with Worcester University.

School Parent Survey Autumn 2018:

As a result of the parent survey, a parent forum was held to discuss some of the issues raised around Educational Visits and Communication. Parents were asked to consider the following questions:

Communication:

What is working well?

What could be improved?

How would you make these improvements?

Is there any feedback that you would like to offer?

Educational Visits:

What are your experiences of educational visits in our school?

Are you happy with the activities on offer and the associated costs?

How could we improve?

Communication

Parents said ...

- There have been ongoing improvements in parent communication since the first parent consultation meeting held to discuss this.
- Texts and emails are backed up by information and letters on parentpay.
- The newsletter continues to be informative.
- Parents comment that they particularly like seeing what their children are doing and learning when this is posted on facebook and twitter.
- Tapestry (used in Reception) is excellent and parents feel part of their child's learning.
- Parents may not be fully aware of the school calendar on the website which has lots of useful dates for parents.
- Parents sometimes receive an email to say that there is an outstanding payment for Breakfast Club, when this is not the case. It would be better if bulk emails are not sent as this can cause concern that payments have not been processed.
- On occasion, parents have been made aware of something after the children, for example residential educational visits or clubs requiring payments which can cause disappointment.
- Sometimes it feels as though there are many emails and they are hard to keep track of if there are children in more than one class.
- It would be helpful if more than one parent could be emailed with information as sometimes partners forget to communicate important information.

We will ...

- Continue to find ways to improve parent communication through emails, texts, letters, social media and parentpay.
- Use facebook and twitter to share children's learning throughout the day.
- Investigate if it is possible to use Tapestry with other year groups, not just Reception.
- Make parents more aware of the school calendar online through the newsletter and emails.
- Establish a way in which outstanding payment emails are sent just to relevant parents.
- Endeavour to let parents know about any residential educational visits/clubs requiring significant payments before this is shared with the children.
- Look at the number of emails being sent home and try to limit this number, or combine several messages into one email.
- Investigate if there is a way of setting up more than one email address for each child so that both partners can be emailed, and ask which parents would like this service.

- It would be helpful if all letters have the year group/class name on them to avoid confusion when parents have children in more than one class/year group.
- It would be even better if parents had more information about what their children have been doing during the week/day so that they can support learning at home.
- The newsletter has recently been missing on the facebook page, and the Bengeworth news app is not up to date.
- It is difficult to be at Walk in Tuesday at both settings at the same time if you have more than one child at the school.
- Secure letters should always be in an envelope.
- The school should continue to work towards being paperless with their communication.
- It would be helpful to know the results of spelling tests.
- Text messages are more effective and user-friendly than emails.

- Ensure that all letters and emailed class/year group specific communication details the child's year group or class.
- Continue to add photos to social media and update the curriculum maps on the website to include details.
- This should now improve now that the office team are fully staffed and the recruitment process is complete.
- Provide alternate 'walk-in' days on Tuesdays/Wednesdays between settings to enable parents to attend both.
- Remind all staff that any confidential letters should be sent home in a sealed envelope for the attention of the parent.
- We will continue to do this, although not always possible if there is a reply slip to return. We will investigate this on parentpay, although there are still have families with no email address which would mean that we would cut off the communication trail, so we may never be able to go completely paperless.
- Discuss with staff how we can let parents know these results, including the spellings that were incorrect.
- Investigate whether it is possible to purchase a 'bundle' deal of text messages as this is an expensive method of communication for the school at present.

Educational Visits

Parents said ...

- Educational visits are seen as positive and valuable to children’s education, including local visits with no cost, as they provide a dimension that is not possible in the classroom. School need to look into using the local area more and ways to access local resources.
- Sometimes it can be challenging to budget for educational visits, including swimming, and it would be helpful to know in advance what was planned with costs, including swimming and other trips. This is particularly the case when there is more than one child in the family, meaning that it can become expensive and complicated with planning.
- Residential visits with high costs associated are easier to pay for when it is spread across a whole year. The Year 5 visit to France is more manageable for this reason.
- There is a Bengeworth Club on Facebook which helps parents remember that there is swimming or other educational visits. Could the school promote this page?
- Parents feel that smaller amounts should be contributed for wow starters. If school considers that the experience is important, perhaps the school should pay for it?
- Parents need to be more aware that it is possible to put money aside into parentpay ahead of expected payments so that educational visits can be budgeted for.
- The Christmas visit to the pantomime is quite expensive. Is it necessary to go to Cheltenham (there is an Arts Centre in Evesham) and is it necessary to go every year? Could this visit be on a bi-annual basis? Children are so tired at this time of the year so do they really need it?

We will ...

- Continue to look into ways in which we can further enrich the curriculum through local educational visits which have little or no cost, but which help children understand their own local environment.
- Provide more notice and approximate costs of planned/proposed educational visits throughout the year by producing an overview for each year group in September.
- Continue to provide this facility for parents, and will look into ways of making more expensive visits easier to pay for in this way.
- The school already has a facebook page which we use to provide parents with as much information as possible. It is not possible to endorse a page that we don’t have control of.
- Try to keep any costs to parents to a minimum and share costs. ‘Wow’ starters to topics enable the children to be really hooked into their learning which in turn means greater enjoyment in learning. Unfortunately, the current financial climate means that it would not be possible to have such events if we did not share costs with parents.
- Ensure that we make this facility clear to parents through the newsletter and parent handbook.
- Investigate a different provider of pantomime. However, the school feels that the visit does currently provide value for money as the production is of a high quality in Cheltenham and other providers cost nearly as much but are not as good. We will look at undertaking this trip bi-annually.

