



Brompton-on-Swale C.E. Primary School  
Brompton Park, Brompton-on-Swale  
Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 7JW



01748 811683



fax: 01748810906



www.bromptonschool.net



admin@bromptonschool.net



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **RE: Parent Questionnaire 2019**

Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the governors' annual Parent Questionnaire that's been available to you towards the end of last term. It makes a real difference to both governors and leaders and shapes what we focus on, with respect to school improvement priorities.

We offered the chance to win a bottle of wine to anyone who completed the questionnaire by Friday 15th March. I'm delighted to announce that Helen Whitfield has won this treat! Mrs. Hustwick has your prize hidden away in the office, ready for collection.

Although it's impossible to respond to every comment individually, I offer this response to you in the hope that it will demonstrate what we will be doing to highlight concerns and move forward. I have also uploaded a copy of the outcomes for each question from the questionnaire onto the school's website under the 'Information for Parents' Section. Unfortunately, I'm not able to include the comments due to many of them having mentioned children's or staff names.

### **Some headlines**

- 96% of children enjoy school all or most of the time.
- 99% of children feel safe at school.
- 100% agree or strongly agree that the school is led and managed effectively.
- 99% agree or strongly agree that there are a good range of out of school activities.

### **I receive valuable information about my child's progress**

95% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

### **I feel fully informed about my child's learning and know how to support them at home**

94% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

Although the proportion of parents agreeing with the above statements was still high, there were a few comments along the same theme, for instance:

*"I only receive information at Parents' Evening"*

*"More feedback would be good"*

*"We are unsure of how to support him at home"*

*"More individualized information could help us to support better at home"*

*"Not sure what her targets are or what they mean"*





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Firstly and most importantly, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child's learning or progress. All staff are happy to speak to parents at any time of the year; you do not have to wait for parents' evenings to come round again in order to air any concerns or talk through what you could do to support your child's learning.

However, I do think that school can do better here. Although we do an annual phonics evening for parents there are always other opportunities that we can create for parents to get involved. Please watch this space – we'll try to create some additional opportunities for parents/carers to find out more about the learning process and how you can help. Can I politely remind you to have a good look at our homework diary as well? It contains some detailed information about our targets/homework/schemes that parents may find useful.

You might be interested to know that we're going to be adapting our Parent App soon. The new solution will have additional functions so that parents will be able to see additional information, for example attendance information and also hopefully our assessment framework which will help some of you to know your child's next step in all subjects across the curriculum. Watch this space!

### Feedback from our Forces Families

100% Agreed or strongly agreed that the staff are sensitive and supportive to their child at times of extended periods of parental absence. (NB: 3 responses replied that this statement was not applicable)

Thank you for your feedback. There were some lovely comments and some good ideas about how we can improve further.

*"Staff are very approachable."*

*"School communication is great when either myself or my wife are away with the military."*

*"Use the Seesaw app more than you already do."*

### BOS Kids – Before and After School Provision

100% of parents who use the service are either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with it!

Comments were very positive, for instance:

*"The BOS Kids team are great!"*

*"BOS Kids is an amazing facility, both my children love going and it helps that they are supported with their homework and have a good meal."*

*"I never cease to be amazed at how BOS Kids staff fit it all in!"*





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## Do you feel your child has benefited from the increased opportunities of the two schools working together?

The response to this question provided the highest proportion of disagreement throughout the whole questionnaire. Although 53% of respondents agreed with the statement, 47% disagreed. Given the response, I think that it's a good idea to try to highlight some of the work that's been undertaken as a federation so far.

- There have been some really good opportunities for staff development across both schools. If these weren't in place, there would be a good chance that some of our highly-regarded middle and senior leaders/teachers would have already 'flown the nest' and looked for career opportunities in other schools/organisations. Some of these opportunities are identified below.
- As you know, Mr. Firmin is now Head of School at Brompton. This is a promoted post for Mr. Firmin. He is also leading PE and School Sport across both schools, ably assisted by the teaching staff. This helps to ensure that all the sporting opportunities continue to occur as well as increasing the provision (for instance the addition of even more extra-curricular clubs/activities and recent indoor cricket league).
- Miss Wagstaff (Deputy Headteacher at Crakehall) is leading English across both schools. This has led to the development of practice in several areas, for instance the teaching of spelling and phonics across the whole school.
- Mr. Scott is now the federation's Subject Leader for Maths. This has led to the development of maths teaching. You may have noticed your child talking about 'Convince Me Maths' (our way of teaching maths) and 'Times Tables Rock Stars' that has got the children very excited recently!
- 'The Greatest Show' utilised the stage and amplification facilities at Brompton as well as bringing all children together from both schools for an afternoon of performing arts.
- Crakehall's Forest School provision has been utilised by last year's Year 6 pupils and is already planned again for our current cohort post-SATs.
- Since becoming part of the federation, our staff have been provided with more opportunities to work collaboratively with other schools, compare their classroom standards and gain by sharing practice with other teachers, a really important aspect of being a teacher.
- Our finance and administrative staff have worked together in order to share the workload and reduce any duplication. For instance, work on the heavily publicised GDPR has been shared out, rather than both teams undertaking the same tasks in both schools.
- There have been some financial savings from the federation also. We have received several discounts when purchasing services/products together rather than as two separate schools.
- Governors are working very hard to hold Mrs. Marino, Mr. Firmin and myself to account for our work. The new governing body consists of people who have a wide range of skills, each contributing something to the overall strategic leadership of the federation. Although you and





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your child don't directly see the benefit of this work, without good governance the school wouldn't be able to function effectively. For anyone unsure as to who our governors are, please browse to the school website and see the governors' page, alternatively click on this link which takes you straight to the federation's site [www.synergyschools.co.uk](http://www.synergyschools.co.uk).

### **In your opinion, what are the things that the school does well?**

Thank you for recognising a whole list of things in response to this question – in total there were 58 detailed comments! These were some of the key themes:

- Sporting activities and opportunities that take place outside of the school day
- A caring and nurturing environment
- Very good teaching, learning and standards
- Approachable staff
- The Top Shelf Challenge
- Very good communication

### **Do you have any suggestions or further comments to help improve our school?**

Again, thank you for your honesty in providing some clear direction in response to this question. There were 14 comments in total. The key themes are listed below (some of which have already been discussed):

- More feedback on learning
- Communication – provide even more notice for events (up to 4 weeks) to enable parents to get time off work
- Widen the path going past FS/Year 1/Year 4 so that parents/children don't have to stand on the grass/mud!

I hope that this response demonstrates to you our openness to admit where things aren't quite right and also our determination and drive to move the school forward. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you require any further clarification or would like to offer any further suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

*Mr. M. White*

Mr M White  
Executive Headteacher

