



# Thornton-in-Craven Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs K Smith



## Parent Questionnaire – 2017/2018 Academic Year

Thank you for the feedback you have provided. We are very pleased with how overwhelmingly positive it was and the feedback for areas to improve was constructive and useful. Please keep talking to us if you have anything you wish to discuss.

(numbers in brackets) is percentage change since last questionnaire.

<b>Well Being</b>						
	<b>Strongly agree or agree - excluding don't know/NA</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
The school has a happy atmosphere.	100% (-)	86%	14%			
My child enjoys school.	95% (-5)	76%	20%	5%		
My child, in general, feels secure at school and enjoys their learning.	95% (-5)	81%	14%	5%		
My child is encouraged to do their best.	100% (-)	79%	21%			
My child feels safe in school.	98% (+1)	88%	10%	2%		
Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning.	100% (+9)	79%	21%			9%
My child is making good progress.	95% (-5)	71%	24%	5%		
<b>Learning and Curriculum</b>						
	<b>Strongly agree or agree - excluding don't know/NA</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
School has high expectations for my child.	100% (+12)	81%	19%			3%
My child finds the work stimulating and interesting.	98% (-2)	69%	29%	2%		
Teachers are good at letting me know about my child's progress.	100% (-)	71%	29%			
Breakfast club provides excellent care for my child	100%	62%	12%			26%
After-school club provides excellent care for my child	100%	52%	12%			36%
My child feels confident in school.	95% (-5)	69%	24%	5%		2%
Parents are encouraged to play an active part in their child's education.	100% (+3)	81%	18%			2%
The work that is sent home is appropriate and there is the right amount.	98% (+1)	55%	38%	2%		5%

Behaviour						
	Strongly agree or agree - excluding don't know/NA	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I think the school's system of rewarding and praising children is effective.	95% (+1)	68%	25%	5%		2%
My child likes the behaviour system.	93% (-1)	68%	20%	7%		5%
As a parent I like the fact that I hear quickly if there is a behaviour concern.	100% (+12)	63%	10%			27%
The school deals effectively with bullying	100%	44%	15%			41%
Communication						
	Strongly agree or agree - excluding don't know/NA	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The school is well led and managed	100% (+6)	80%	15%			5%
School communicates effectively with parents.	100% (+7)	80%	20%			
School reports and parents evenings keep me well informed.	100% (-)	81%	17%			2%
The newsletters provide me with clear information regarding what has happened but also about future events.	100% (-)	78%	22%			
My child is confident that should they have a problem, there is someone they can go to in school who will listen to them.	100% (+6)	71%	29%			
I read communication sent via parentmail.	98% (-2)	81%	17%	2%		
I update school and parentmail when my details change such as my mobile number or address.	98% (-2)	76%	12%	2%		10%

#### Key areas of success comments:

- The school throughout. My child moved school and I have no concerns at all. Everyone at the school is happy and all seem to enjoy their time at school.
- Pupils' behaviour and manners. Respect and consideration for others.
- The approachability of staff and a warm and welcoming atmosphere in and around the school.
- Everything – it is a wonderful school and so pleased that my child is a pupil within it.
- Everything!
- The school is such a friendly, welcoming place and we are always impressed by all the children's manners.
- The school is well managed.
- Giving children extra support to build their confidence in all areas of their work. Knowing each child as an individual and caring about them. A great learning environment.
- Knowing the children really well. Good pace of learning – making good progress. My child loves school and always wants to attend.
- After school club has been a great asset – a super learning environment.
- My child loves coming to school and is progressing really well.
- There is a lot of encouragement with ways to help with work at home.
- Communication with parents and it's not just about learning. It is made fun and for the whole school to join in e.g. science week.

- Academic progress is excellent as is the emotional development of my child which is down to great teaching and a lovely friendly atmosphere in the mixed age classes.
- Excellent relationships between all stakeholders. It has a vibrant, exciting and stimulating atmosphere created by everyone in school. Before and After school care has really enhanced the school's overall effectiveness.
- My child is very happy and settled at school.
- Behaviour management, happy and enthusiastic children, school activities/homework is well managed and organised. Bullying does not appear to be an issue.
- The school has a family feel and this is reflected in the good behaviour and speed of learning – impressive. Excellent learning environment and encouragement for children to stretch themselves. Happy caring environment and pupils are well behaved. Well managed and staff are very approachable. It is a caring environment that nurtures confidence.
- Fabulous school – since day 1 my child has been happy and made excellent progress. The school is very supportive, provides an excellent learning environment where my child is happy and eager to learn.
- A happy, nurturing, safe environment. The relationship between staff and children.
- My child is not aware of bullying but I am aware that the school has a very strong stance on bullying and deals with it straight away and effectively.
- Looking at children as individuals promoting a sense of family and inclusion.
- Have not experienced a bullying issue however as this has not been an issue it is clearly dealt with and respect for others is taught well.
- It is a safe and happy environment – children are comfortable to mix with all ages. Whole school projects are fantastic. Children are encouraged to embrace their own personalities.
- The atmosphere is different to other schools I have experienced. There seems to be a big focus on the happiness of the children and an understanding that a child's ability to learn is enhanced in such a setting/atmosphere.
- Very approachable staff if there are any parental concerns.
- Friendly school – pupils look out for each other. Staff are approachable. Breakfast and after school club is really helpful for parents and promotes the school to new parents.
- Excellent communication means that I feel involved. I feel that all the staff care about their children and their jobs – this feeds through to the children so they enjoy school and have many successes.
- The close-knit relationships with pupils and teachers due to being a small school.

#### Areas for development comments:

- [Encouraging PTA participation amongst parents.](#)  
The PTA is advertised at new parent meetings and then meetings are advertised through the newsletter and assemblies. We do try to advertise the friendly nature of the PTA and agree that we desperately need more help please. Especially as our active PTA members have children that will soon leave the school.
- [I can't think of any but feel confident to discuss any if I feel I need to.](#)  
Excellent. Our door is always open.
- [Sometimes need to give slightly more notice about events coming up.](#)  
We have tried hard to improve this by adding dates to newsletters well in advance. We may occasionally miss things during very busy periods (like Summer term) and apologise for this. We are always aiming to improve this as we know how important it is to be informed well in advance. However, often if we give lots of notice through early letters, the letters and permissions slips get lost and not returned.
- [Also to look at areas of the playground that are not suitable for playing e.g muddy areas as uniform and shoes are getting ruined.](#)  
A lot of our older children love playing football. It keeps them active and develops their ability to solve conflicts and maintain relationships. The only safe place for this is at the back of the school. They hit the ball very hard! By being in this area other children can play without being hit. There is a muddy section and they are reminded not to go on it regularly but they do so often to retrieve the ball or to save a goal. We are looking into fencing that area off eventually. They also like to dramatically fall to the ground regularly. But... they are having fun and they are occupied at playtimes. We do not want to remove this. If mud is an issue then we would recommend you ask your child not to play football as there is no other suitable space on the playground. Alternatively, they can bring in other footwear for during playtime to save their school shoes.
- [Communication with parents regarding updates of individual issues/learning.](#)  
Feel free to talk to us about this so we have more detail as to how we could provide more detailed updates.

- **Safety of drop off/pick up.** Parents to stop parking at the bottom actually on Cam Lane as it obstructs view. Parking is our main issue. When parking please consider the pedestrians as well as the road users. Never park so that pedestrians have to move into the road and always consider the view of pedestrians and road users please.
- **Class teacher communication with parents.**  
100% of respondents agreed that teachers are good at letting me know about my child's progress and 100% agreed that the school communicates effectively with parents. Thankfully class teacher communication was overwhelmingly positive in many other comments as I feel I must defend the staff with this individual comment. Class teachers and teaching assistants are available on the playground nearly every single morning and they never turn a parent away. Class teachers provide weekly updates to myself and this is then included in the newsletter so parents know what has been learned that week. They provide parents consults and written reports and will answer any emails or calls directed to them. Our staff are very available in comparison to many other schools.
- **Children should not be punished/criticised if parents don't have time to read with them every single night.**  
Please be assured that no child has ever been criticised or punished for not reading every single night. Confident readers are encouraged to read themselves five times a week and to record this for themselves in their reading record. Where a less confident reader hasn't read for an extended period e.g throughout the entire holidays, they may be asked to read to themselves or the teacher during lunch or break. Staff give up their lunch breaks/playtimes in order to allow lessons to continue as normal and to provide help for children not to fall behind. Please do encourage your child to read regularly and take time when possible to ask them questions about what they have read.
- **School parking for parents to make it safer for children.**  
Unfortunately there is no space or funding to provide any further on site parking plus the single track lane and single access drive would cause a traffic jam when cars attempt to come up and down the lane. That is why we are **very grateful** to every parent who does not drive up Cam Lane to pick up or drop off. An extra special thank you to those that walk from the church – this helps congestion, eases safety and encourages exercise.
- **Would like to see more sport and music for reception and**
- **I would like to see a little more emphasis on subjects such as music as well as key subjects.**  
This year by the end of term, reception will have accessed gymnastics, dance, tennis, invasion games, athletics and ball skills. This includes tutoring by a tennis coach, gymnastics coach and specialist PE teacher. Music is taught through singing in productions, use of instruments and through a music scheme called Charanga. Unfortunately, we do not currently have the funding to provide specialist music tuition beyond this. Individual instrument tuition is available – please ask at the school office.
- **Perhaps a morning run?**  
We are looking at ways to further increase daily activity. Mrs Whitwell did investigate running routes but there were none outside of school that could be deemed safe for older children and the field/playground was extremely slippy and muddy in Winter. The drainage that was put in can be ineffective during winter and it becomes very boggy. We will be looking at this further as we agree that it is something we would like to encourage/offer.
- **Safe removal of asbestos.**  
We only have one asbestos gasket in the boiler room. It is safer not to disturb it and it is checked monthly. No children ever go in the boiler room and it is locked at all times. Please be assured that no other asbestos has been found in school.
- **Improved library area/trips to the library.**  
The school previously paid for a system called junior librarian so children could scan and return books. This was very expensive and quite time consuming. Once children are free readers they are able to take books from the library and the class libraries. Younger children can borrow books from the library too but we use a trust system that they will be returned when you have finished with them. Library visits in previous years have been complicated as some children live in North Yorkshire and some in Lancashire. It is also very expensive to transport pupils to the library and back again due to our location. Other school trips have taken priority. We would always encourage children to join their local libraries.
- **More opportunity to take part in different sporting activities.**  
Watch this space! So far this year we have offered gymnastics, dance, cross-country, invasion games, dodgeball, running, circuit training, ultimate frisby, hockey, playground leader training, football, multi-skills, streetdance etc... Over the next term, we will be adding golf, tennis, tag rugby, netball, athletics, rounders, swimming and archery.