



Orchard Junior School

Parent Questionnaire 2016

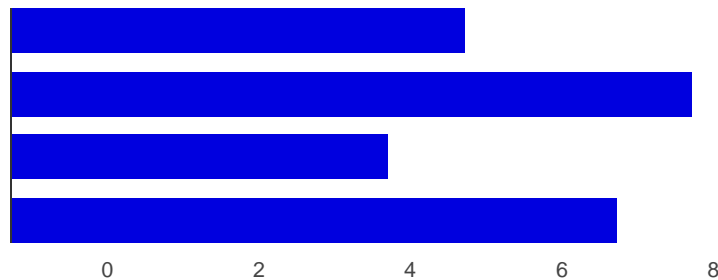
The questionnaire was available from Thursday 25th February, through to Wednesday 16th March.

We had a fairly spread response across the School, and fairly even boy/ girl split.

28 responses received.

Summary

My child is in



Year 3	6	21.4%
Year 4	9	32.1%
Year 5	5	17.9%
Year 6	8	28.6%

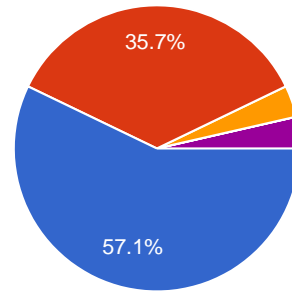
My child is a



Boy	12	42.9%
Girl	16	57.1%

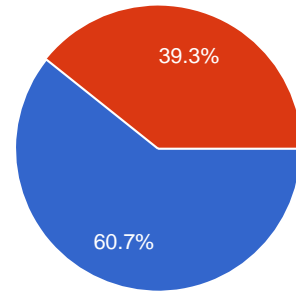
My child is happy at Orchard Junior School

Strongly Agree	16	57.1%
Agree	10	35.7%
Disagree	1	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	1	3.6%



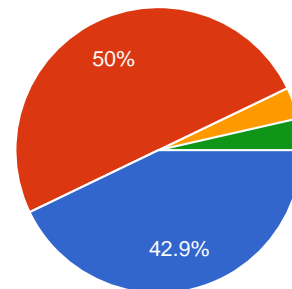
My child feels safe at School

Strongly Agree	17	60.7%
Agree	11	39.3%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	0	0%



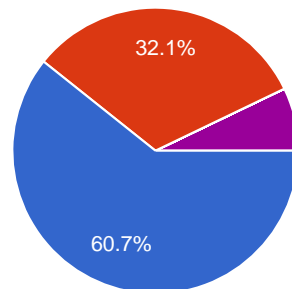
My child makes good progress at School

Strongly Agree	12	42.9%
Agree	14	50%
Disagree	1	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	1	3.6%
Don't Know	0	0%



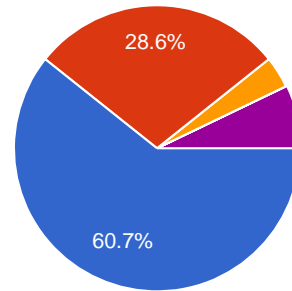
My child is well looked after at School

Strongly Agree	17	60.7%
Agree	9	32.1%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	2	7.1%



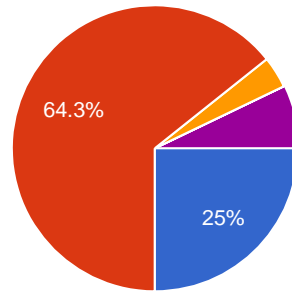
My child is taught well at School

Strongly Agree	17	60.7%
Agree	8	28.6%
Disagree	1	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	2	7.1%



My child receives appropriate homework for their age

Strongly Agree	7	25%
Agree	18	64.3%
Disagree	1	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	2	7.1%



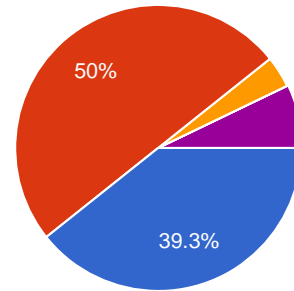
Consultation on homework

- I think more homework would be good for our son.Thanks
- More incentives/rewards to try their very best with homework, rather than it seem a chore. Always given plenty of time to complete the task set but could be encouraged to bring it back to school sooner rather than later on the due date. (My child dreads homework and leaves it to the last night before deadline despite our encouragement and help)
- Homework such as times tables/reading and spellings is more beneficial than some tasks which are received.
- Some of the spellings currently learnt for homework by year 4's seem inappropriate to age/ability and need of use or child's understanding. Learning the correct spelling of more everyday/frequently used words would benefit my child more.
- Sometimes we feel where we have had a struggle with homework and it has caused a lot of arguments we then don't have any idea what marks our child received.
- Maybe a homework book would be good with comments from teachers if it wasn't quite right or not understood properly, where things could improve and just a basic page with a mark for each bit of homework they have done so we also are involved with the end result. We are also not too impressed with the fact 'sat' homework tests are marked as a class, our son incorrectly marked his and actually did better than we all thought when we looked at it the following week. Then his next ones hadn't all been marked. It doesn't give a clear understanding of how the kids are doing if they aren't concentrating and marking them incorrectly.

- I like the fact that there is 3 types of homework - topic, maths and reading, but I would prefer there to be a set day for each so they can be slotted into a weekly routine.
- I think if they are having homework it should be regular really from yr 5/6 as it prepares them for seniors. Yrs 3/4 could probably get by doing reading, tables and spellings.
- A combination of regular practice of rote skills e.g. Times tables and spellings with some project based homework with realistic deadlines works well for our family. It is really important children receive feedback on the homework as that motivates them to complete it to a high standard next time with less parental nagging!
- The homework is quite reasonable, but , my son is too lazy to do it. Not the teachers fault.... poor [staff name] will know who i'm talking about!
- Current levels of homework aren't unreasonable.
- It would be nice to see more of a balance between maths/literacy, literacy homework seems more frequent. I don't think homework should be set with a 3 week deadline at this age, I expect the majority do it in the final week anyway, much easier to keep children this age engaged with bite size pieces, they will have enough time studying at secondary school. I feel as though reading record books is more the parents homework, my son loves reading but find that having to write about it is a very effective way of putting him off reading which is frustrating as I am trying to encourage him to choose a good book over a computer game. Could you not ask them to recommend a book once a week/fortnight to their classmates with a reason why and an incentive? Incentive could also be linked to how many kids read the book they recommended so they think about it more? Or incentivise all homework so you build a more positive association? In the real world, if we want increase in performance from people we link it to pay/incentives because this drives much better result and greater over achievement then penalties, which simply result in the minimum effort to get by. Yet some teachers (not all) are still falling back on threats in the form of missed playtime (more often the ones without own children but not necessarily) which is frankly unimaginative.
- It can be a struggle to engage my daughter in times tables practice, reading and spellings practice every week, her having already done a day at school. I work from home so try hard to squeeze this in around after school activities etc but for parents who work full time, it must be nigh on impossible and therefore v difficult for their kids to keep up with expectation.
- i don't think the children should be timed on times tables, as long as they know the answers i feel thats enough
- I think it is a good idea to include times tables and reading as part of the homework. When I suggest doing either of these I get 'We don't have to do then'.

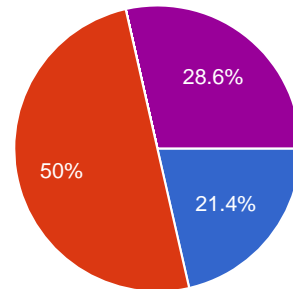
The School makes sure its pupils are well behaved

Strongly Agree	11	39.3%
Agree	14	50%
Disagree	1	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	2	7.1%



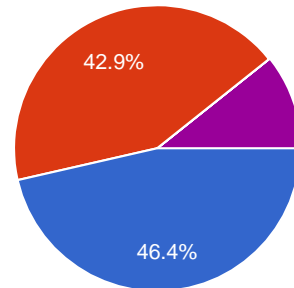
This school deals effectively with bullying

Strongly Agree	6	21.4%
Agree	14	50%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	8	28.6%



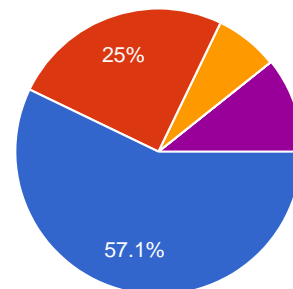
The school is well led and managed

Strongly Agree	13	46.4%
Agree	12	42.9%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	3	10.7%



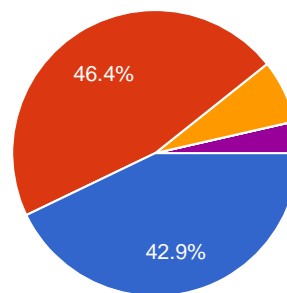
The School responds well to any concerns I raise

Strongly Agree	16	57.1%
Agree	7	25%
Disagree	2	7.1%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	3	10.7%



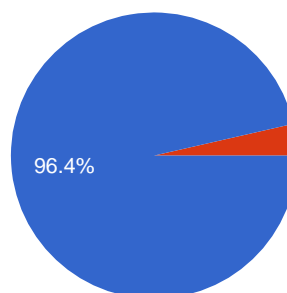
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

Strongly Agree	12	42.9%
Agree	13	46.4%
Disagree	2	7.1%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Don't Know	1	3.6%



I would recommend this school to another parent

Yes	27	96.4%
No	1	3.6%



What do you value most about Orchard?

- Good relationship between teachers and parents. Good handling of new students in school.
- Parental Involvement
- Approachable, friendly staff team who recognise children's individuality.
- Open door policy, staff always helpful and responsive to any concerns or queries. My son has been happy here and never says he doesn't want to go school. If we have had any concerns or any serious issues have come up the school has dealt with it very well.
- The open house and friendliness of all staff. Easy to talk to staff and teachers when concerns arise
- All the pupils are valued and encouraged to do their best.
- The safe and welcoming environment for the children and parents. My child and previous child have both enjoyed their time at this school.
- The emphasis on involving children in a range of activities so that they understand that learning does not only happen in a classroom. Access to clubs that develop children's skills and sense of competence in areas other than academic, for example sports clubs and choir. My daughter is thriving with [staff name] as her teacher and I am very grateful for [staff name] hard work and for understanding how to encourage and motivate [child's name].
- I like that they realise that he is not doing enough, but, instead of abandoning him, they are helping him to sort it out.
- There is a healthy balance between academic achievement/study and sport/music etc. There are many routes to success and I think the number of non academic clubs available

is very valuable. Sport in particular, teaches so many essential life skills that academic subjects do not and I am very grateful to the time that teachers put into this outside their teaching hours.

- an education / school i can trust friendly staff
- The time, care, reporting back to us and flexibility provided to [child's name] especially from [staff name] and the relationship she has built, nurtured and developed with [child's name] .
- The positive happy and approachable office staff The interaction between child and teacher.

Have you any suggestions for ways in which the school could be improved?

- On the side of bullying
- My Child has requested to attend athletics club, not currently available at Orchard. We understand that parents evenings are organised in the way they are for time constraint and being able to speak to all parents fairly but we never get the chance to ask any questions. While we know we can make appointments to come in and speak to a teacher regarding our child at any time, maybe it would be a good idea to have another type of parents evening so we could come in if we have any questions just regarding things that have come up regarding lessons or school stuff but don't require needing to make a special appointment.
- Before and after school clubs
- Maybe dropping the ticket run again. I feel that it is only a matter of time before one of the children suffer an asthma attack during the cold weather when this is held. I also feel it is a lazy PE lesson. If the year group need to all do PE together on occasions maybe some relay races could be set up.
- Some parents feel that they do not have an accurate understanding of how their child is progressing and whether this is in line with age expectations. It would be helpful if the school could explain how they are now monitoring children's progress without levels and the standards expected for different year groups. There was some discussion around this at the curriculum evening but not in detail.
- Mix up the classes yearly my eldest that left last year struggled with some class members and my middle child in yr 5 has a disruptive group of boys. She was also separated from a really good friend for every year! I see no benefit to this at all for the students as they will all have to move on to senior school this does not prepare them.
- Parents evenings are relatively infrequent and this can result in poor communication about your child's progress if action needs to be taken between such meetings. A better mechanism for performance / behaviour feedback between parents evenings would be helpful.
- See above under homework
- The transition between Y2 and Y3 is hard, it's really very different from infant school and my

daughter has struggled. There seems to be a real lack of praise in Y3. I know this, since my daughter said she "had a really good day at school," due to having been praised just three times by her teacher. Kids of 7-8 still feed off that praise and encouragement, it's what drives them forward. There should be more of it. My daughter finished Y2 at the highest level she could attain, she is a bright girl, yet since starting at OJ she's been moved down in both maths and literacy, is unenthusiastic about practicing times tables and spellings, has no interest in lunchtime or after school clubs and seems v disengaged, which is a worry. The class size of 34 children just seem too large for all the kids to be attended to sufficiently. It seems the teaching moves on quickly within subjects areas without the children necessarily having grasped the concepts being taught before moving on to the next thing. I'm also very unimpressed that at age 8 my daughter has to change for PE alongside the boys. There should be separate changing areas for girls and boys. At this age the kids are starting to be conscious of this sort of thing (yesterday my daughter did PE in her school polo shirt as she didn't want to remove it in front of the boys). In any other public space, be it Applemore or a.n.other swimming pool, children over the age of 8 are required to change in their own changing rooms, yet this is not carried through in our schools.

- bike racks