

Lydgate Junior School

NEWSLETTER

October 2017



Dear Parents / Carers,

Diary Dates

26 th October	Y5 Egyptian Day
27 th October, 3.15 p.m.	School closes for half-term holiday
6 th November	School re-opens
15 th November	Bags2school collection
22 nd November, from 12.30 p.m.	MAST advice session, see below
13 th December, 7 p.m.	Christmas service: St Mark's Church, Broomhill
15 th December	FOLA Christmas disco, details to follow
21 st December	INSET day, school closed for pupils
22 nd December	INSET day, school closed for pupils

First half-term highlights

Year 3 spent a day at the Alfred Denny Museum, looking at skeletons and doing experiments. They also went on a walk around the local area (as far as Clough Fields!) to study land use and services in Crosspool as part of their Geography work. As part of their Healthy Bodies work they have been learning about the importance of having a balanced diet. They put the theory into practice by peeling, chopping and grating ingredients to make toppings for a jacket potato meal....which they then ate!

Two Year 4 classes have started their swimming lessons; this year they are fortunate enough to be getting an extra twenty minutes swimming – making it an hour in the water altogether. All the classes visited Tapton Hill Church, as part of their RE topic.

Year 5 have made a good start on their topic of Ancient Egypt and are looking forward to their Egyptian day on 26th October.

Pupils in Year 6 started off the term with trips to Edale and the National Holocaust Centre. They have also taken part in Bikeability training, to improve their cycling confidence. All classes have also begun their Forest schools lessons, which will continue throughout the year. Finally, all classes have been to King Edward VII, school for Science Workshops.

As well as all this, pupils in Y4, 5 & 6 have had the opportunity to join in with Saturday morning Cross County sessions at venues around Sheffield. Year 3 pupils can join in, if they wish, from January. Choir, Orchestra, Handbells and Windband practice have also resumed. French and Spanish clubs take place at lunchtime and Karate, Fencing and Gymnastics before school.

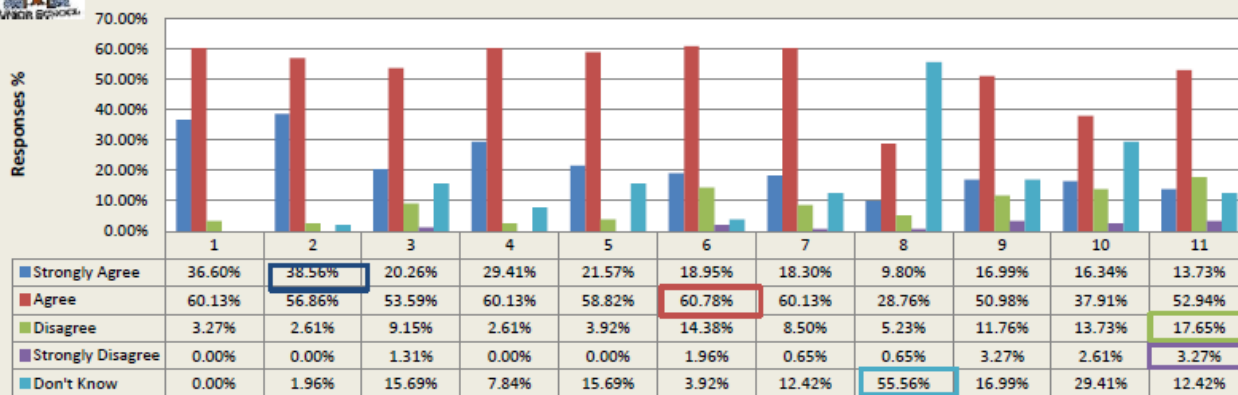
Parent Consultation meetings

As you will know, we used an online system for booking appointments this term. Within the first 24 hours of it being 'live' 272 parents had secured an appointment. We know that on the first day some parents couldn't access the site and this was frustrating. Our system administrator is aware of the problem and he has made some changes i.e. logging users out after a certain length of inactivity. Thank you for the positive comments we received.

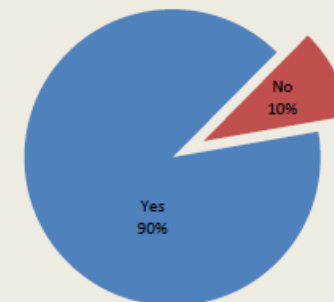
More than 98% of parents made appointments; only three parents raised an issue directly with me. However, according to the parent survey which we emailed last week, the most significant area of concern is the value of information we provide on progress. How could we do this better? Please see the information on the next page for the results of our most recent Parent Survey.



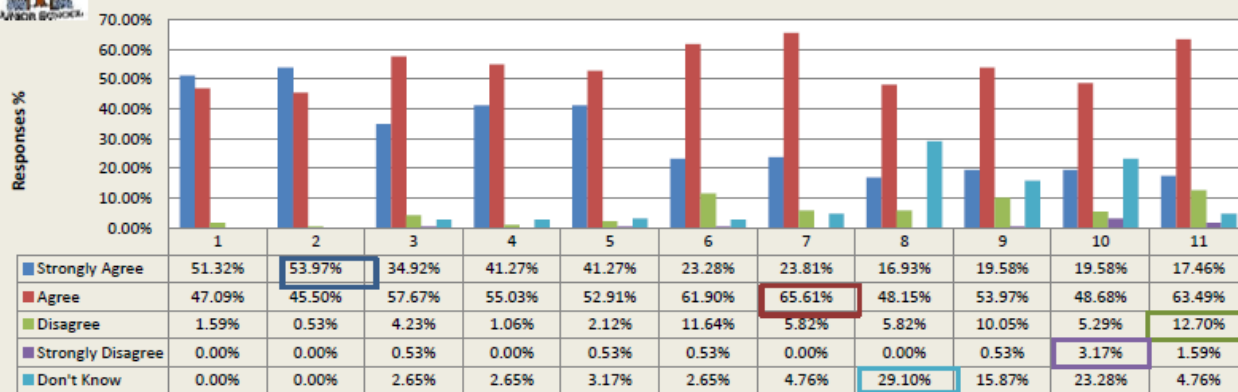
School Parent Survey 2017



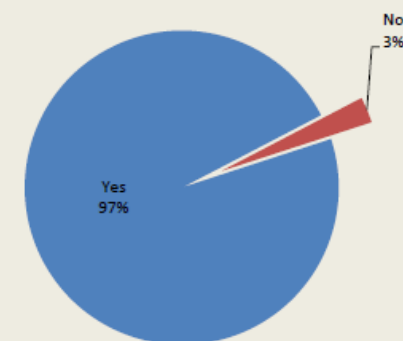
12. 2017 Would you recommend this school to another parent?



School Parent Survey 2016



12. 2016 Would you recommend this school to another parent?



Survey Questions

1. My child is happy at this school
2. My child feels safe at this school
3. My child makes good progress
4. My child is well looked after at this school
5. My child is taught well
6. My child receives age appropriate homework
7. The school makes sure its pupils are well-behaved
8. The school deals effectively with bullying
9. The school is well led and managed
10. The school responds well to any concerns I raise
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

Action Plan

Question 6	Year group curriculum newsletters and blogs hopefully explain the relevance of homework. It is based on the national curriculum, unlike during the day where teaching staff are on hand to direct and support, homework is designed to encourage independent learning. Teachers are not in position to set individualised homework and therefore it needs to allow for the natural range of ability across the class. We will continue to review our homework strategies at team meetings.
Question 10	16% either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Our response to this is to review the way we deal with concerns. When parents raise a concern we will acknowledge its receipt, deal with it promptly and ensure that the parent raising the concern is aware of the outcome.
Question 11	We will endeavour to collect parents views about what information they would like to receive on their child's progress by means of a parental survey. We will use this information review what we send and when we send it

School meals

Our school has the second highest percentage meal uptake in Sheffield's Junior schools. Uptake here is 6% ahead of the Junior School average overall, 7% ahead on paid meals in Juniors and 10% ahead City-wide. Why? Because the meals service here is so good.

Website and Blogs

You can keep up to date on our work by reading the Year Group (and my) blogs. In the last month we had 7,949 visits from the UK, 1,153 from the USA, and so on, through to 1 from Myanmar, Botswana and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Truly, a world-wide web!

Focus for school development

Our self-evaluation told us to work on grammar, spelling, SEN pupils' progress, ensuring our curriculum is exciting and engaging, and maths mastery. Your children should notice the difference as we shift focus in teaching and raise some expectations.

Leave of absence in term time

I will only authorise leave in exceptional circumstances. Birthdays, cost, visitors or convenience are obviously not 'exceptional'. Applications should explain the lack of options for parents, the infrequency of the event, and steps taken to minimise the period of absence. Applications should be made well in advance (i.e. at least 10 school days) – I could simply refuse authorisation on the basis of short notice.

Positive Relationships Policy – Round Table

My thanks to the parents who gave me an afternoon of their time to discuss our recently reviewed 'Behaviour Policy'. Their contributions have helped us reflect on how well we explain our response to any child who has been hurt by another.

Parent Governors

We have vacancies. Usually we get more (self) nominations than we have spaces and so we go to election. But when we put out the notice earlier this term, no names came forward. Could it be you?

Learning instruments at school

Would your child like to learn a musical instrument at school? Lydgate Junior School has a proud tradition of music making, which enables pupils to join the school orchestra.

We offer tuition in cello, oboe, clarinet, violin and brass instruments. There is a loan charge in addition to the tuition fee of £70 (shared lesson) / £134 (individual lesson) per term. A letter has been sent home with more information; please note that the deadline to return this is 27th October.

Attendance at school

I am concerned about the number of children who arrive at school after the bell has rung at 8.45am.

When a child is late there are a number of consequences

- they miss the register being taken, and so have to be marked in separately by the office
- they have to walk in to their classroom when their classmates are already settled, causing disruption to the teacher and everyone else
- they miss the start of day welcome from the teacher, any important news, letters being given out, the introduction to the first piece of work
- they often feel awkward and embarrassed in front of their friends

All 'lates' are recorded on the register and this information is monitored by our attendance officer in the Local Authority. If a child is regularly arriving late we may decide to 'unauthorise' it, thereby adding to their absence percentage.

Christmas service

You may be aware that St John's Church, Ranmoor is closed until next year due to urgent building work being carried out on the roof. Therefore our Christmas service will be held at St Mark's Church, Broomhill this year on Wednesday 13th December.

MAST advice session

Our MAST link worker will be in school on 22nd November and 13th December. She is able to offer advice on issues such as sleep, emotional well-being, stress management, housing problems, finances, family relationships, family breakdown, and school attendance? If any parents would like to see her, please telephone the office to make an appointment.

Bags2school collection – 15th November

Empty bags will be sent home soon and all donations would be very gratefully received!! Money raised from this will go towards contributing to the cost the Year 6 Edale residential. They accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Curtains
- Towels
- Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

They DO NOT accept:

- Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (inc bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

I wish all our families a happy half-term holiday and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 6th November.

Regards



Mr S Jones
Headteacher