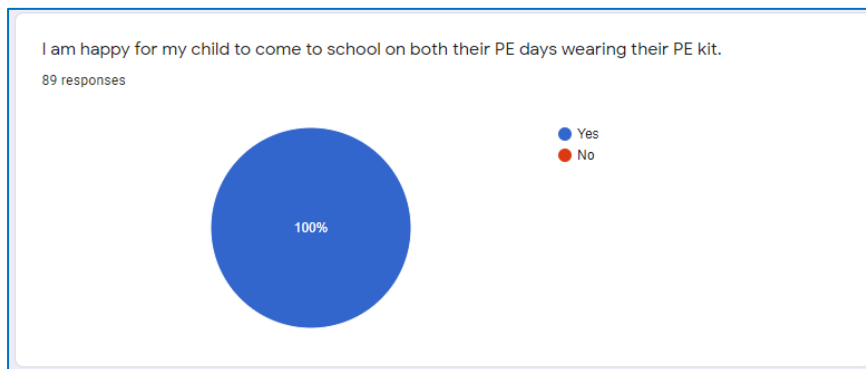


6th July 2021

Response to recent surveys

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, thank you for responding to the recent survey about PE kits. Your responses could not be any more of a landslide! Out of 89 participants (way over half of our families), **everyone** said they would be happy for children to come to school in their PE kits on PE days! We will let you know which days when we have firm timetables in place...



Regarding my other recent survey, I would like to update you on some developments within school.

| You said: | We did: |
|---|---|
| You praised the community spirit of the school, some people noted it 'felt like a family' and was a 'wonderful, nurturing space'. | This will absolutely remain. The community feel of this school, in the heart of Stainland, can be felt by everyone here – children, staff and families. |
| Children are safe | I agree! In a recent Safeguarding Audit with Ken Inwood, Chair of Governors, we found that all children who we asked felt 'safe' and 'happy' at school. Children knew how to stay safe and what to do if they felt unsafe or worried about something. |
| Approximately a third of respondents were unsure of the school's values | Our recent 'wordle' was created with everyone who is invested in the school – families, children, Governors and staff. I have condensed all your amazing responses into four key values for the school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindness – to others, ourselves and to our environment • Independence – great teaching and learning opportunities providing children to be ready for the next stage in their education |

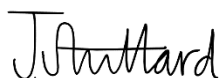
| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenacity – a ‘growth mindset’ and a willingness to accept challenge • Enjoyment – providing a fun, collaborative and engaging curriculum with exciting experiences. <p>Through our KITE Values, we are ‘Achieving Together’.</p> |
| Some respondents wanted more ‘academic challenge’ for their children | A supportive and rigorous professional development programme is in place to support all our staff in school to provide further challenge. Miss Bianchi and Mrs Kinsella have recently led staff training in school around Mathematics and English, and shared strategies to challenge children of all abilities. |
| Over a third of respondents were unsure whether the school ‘prepared children for life in modern Britain’ | This will feature highly alongside our new values and our refreshed curriculum in some areas as we move to seven classes. Our participation in One Britain One Nation Day - where children learned through diverse and inclusive texts, as well as our English curriculum texts - will allow our children to ‘meet’ characters who they may not usually encounter in the local area. I am passionate that the school becomes one which is renowned for celebrating difference. |
| ‘Positive behaviours are encouraged and celebrated’ | Many of you noted the good behaviour from children here at Bowling Green Academy, and I agree! Mrs Deighton, Mrs Whitwam and I have reviewed the school’s Positive Behaviour Policy, and want to add extra celebration to our ‘above and beyond’ children. As such, we are keeping our green – amber – red traffic light system, but adding a Kite above green... It is for exceptional, role model behaviour and hopefully will provide aspiration for all children to be the best they can be! |
| Communication – mixed responses | Some respondents praised the school’s communication systems and some wanted more. Hopefully, you feel happy with my regular communication and half termly newsletters – if you have any further ideas, please do let us know. |
| Relationships with staff | The vast majority of responses praised how approachable and supportive our staff team is. As a new member of staff here, I wholeheartedly agree and think, quite rightly, it is something to celebrate and foster. |
| Some comments focused on after-school clubs | While our free-to-all sports clubs were widely celebrated, some respondents wished for non-sports activities. I believe this was commonplace prior to COVID restrictions and, once we receive the ‘go ahead’ for some restrictions to drop further in school, we will attempt to restart a broad range of after-school clubs to suit more interests. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Almost 25% of respondents disagreed with 'My child enjoys their school dinner'. | Upon your comments and conversations in the playground, this response is more about the availability of dinners, particularly for KS2 children. Mrs Knight and I are working closely with Lindley (our dinner providers) and we think there is a way for children to pre-select their lunch options. Watch this space – we are actively working on it! |
| A few respondents asked whether we could move to separate year groups to avoid mixed-age teaching | From September, we are! Of course, there are some financial considerations to this (i.e. an extra teacher) and so this 'we did' is with great thanks to our continued support from the Trust. |
| There was mixed response to homework – some families wanted more; some wanted less | Homework is always a contentious issue in primary schools. We are currently reviewing our homework offer for next academic year. I hope you will be impressed with our newly purchased and launched reading scheme books for Year 2 upwards. As Mrs Kinsella has communicated, we expect all children to read aloud at home to an adult at least three times per week. Building reading confidence, fluency and comprehension are key to children's later success. |

I hope that you have found this update useful and you can see how we are responding to your welcomed feedback. I have shared all your positive comments with our staff team, and they are also on the school website, too.

Finally, some respondents noted many changes in leadership over the past few years, as well as disruptions due to COVID closures and lockdowns. These challenges have been recognised by school, too, and will form a key part of our development plan moving forwards. I can assure you that everyone here is hoping for increased stability and consistency over the next few years as we all work hard to develop the school and 'Achieve Together'.

All the best,



Mr Jamie Stuttard
Principal