

Great Sankey Primary School

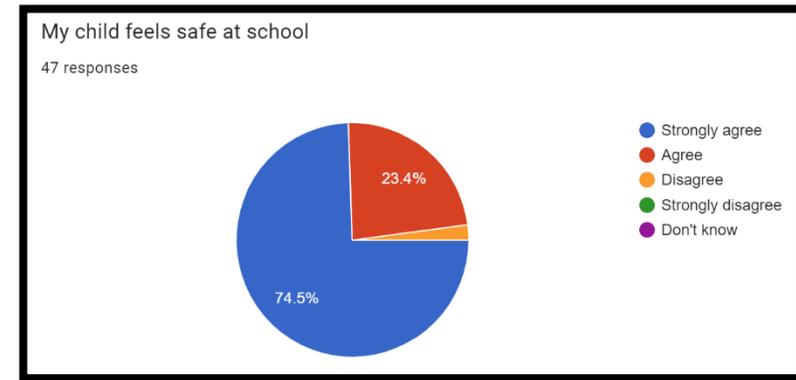
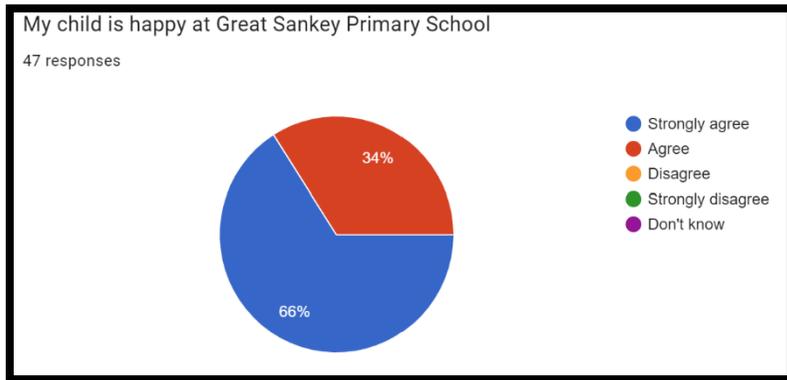


Parent & Carer Survey March 2023

All parents and carers at Great Sankey Primary School were surveyed in Spring 2023. We had 47 responses in total.

This survey was designed to assess current views and opinions and aid in the future planning of provision and priorities of the school. Results were extremely positive and a summary in response to comments is below.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to our survey.

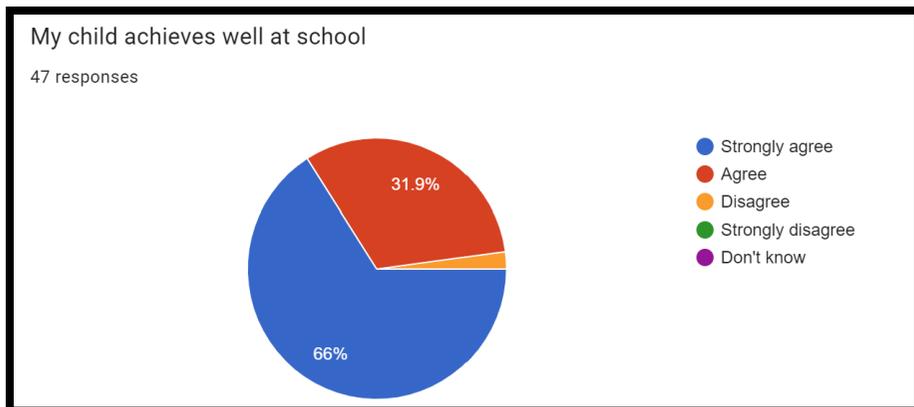


100% agreed / strongly agreed.

This is an overwhelmingly positive response and is of the utmost importance to us. If children are happy and feel secure with us, then they will flourish.

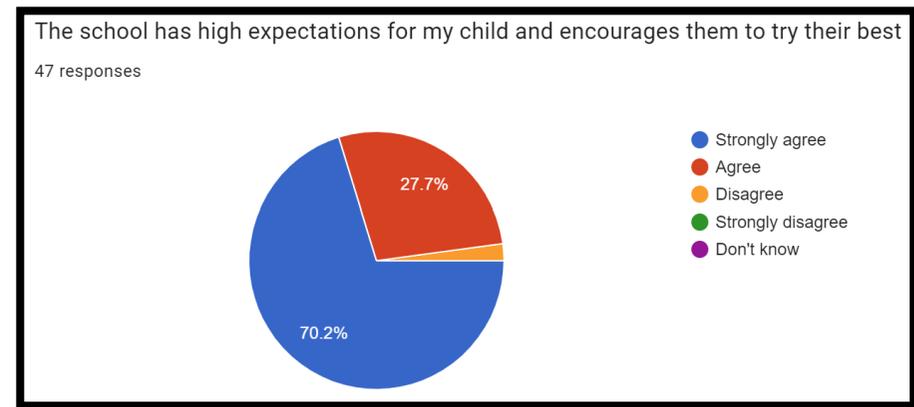
98% agreed / strongly agreed. 1 parent disagreed.

Again, an extremely positive result and it demonstrates the culture of positive behaviour and strong relationships and values that we hold dear at GSP. The safety and security of all our pupils are of paramount importance and where parents and pupils feel this is not the case, we will seek to understand why this is and act accordingly.



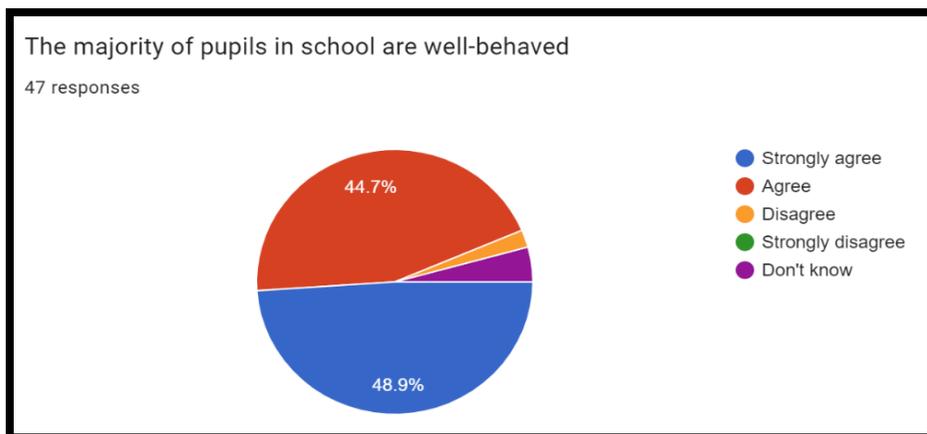
98% agreed / strongly agreed. 1 parent disagreed.

We are happy that the vast majority of our parents and carers recognise the positive impact that the high-quality of teaching and learning has on our pupils' progress. All children at GSP make good progress from their own starting points.



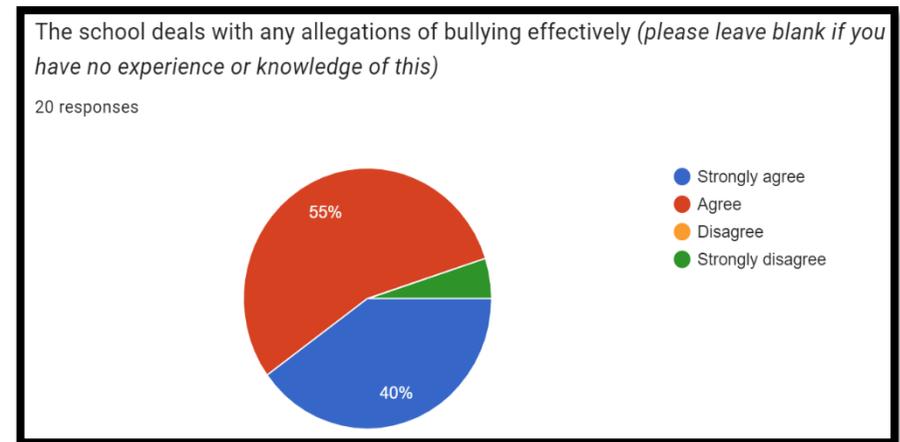
98% agreed / strongly agreed. 1 parent disagreed.

At GSP, we pride ourselves on our high expectations of ourselves and of all our pupils. We always expect everyone to give their very best. As a result of this, our pupils make good progress and achieve well.



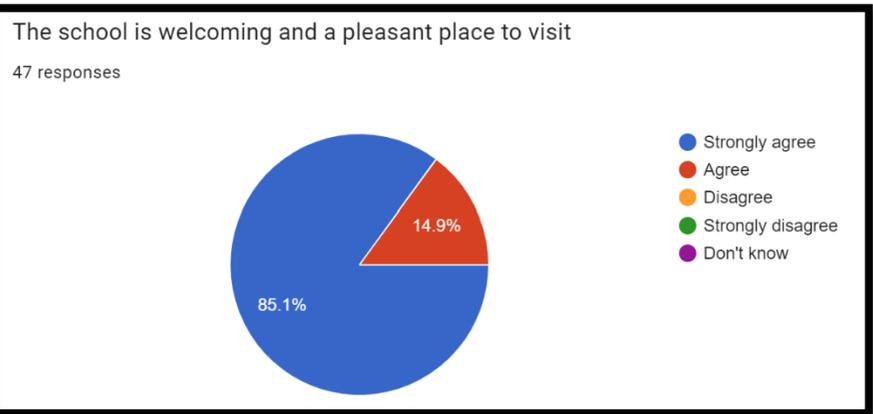
94% agreed / strongly agreed. 2 parents didn't know and 1 parent disagreed.

Visitors to school often compliment us on the 'exemplary' behaviour of our children. The vast majority of them demonstrate our golden rules and values each day and fortunately, incidents of poor behaviour are the minority and are dealt with according to our behaviour policy.



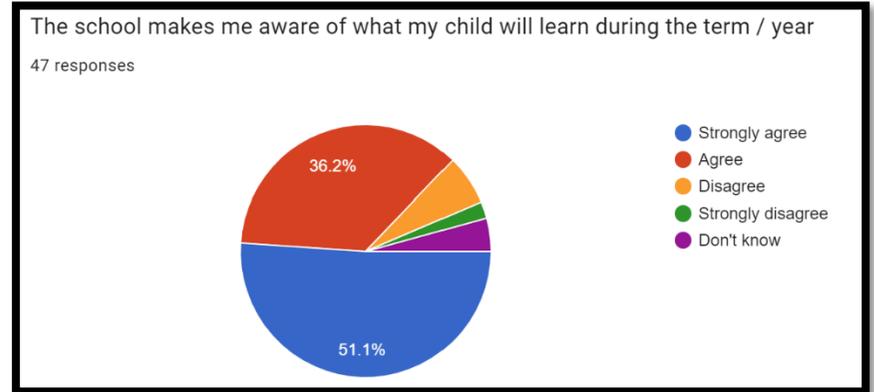
95% agreed / strongly agreed. 27 parents didn't answer the question as they have no experience of this, and 1 parent disagreed.

Fortunately, incidents of bullying are extremely rare at GSP and where we are made aware of any allegation, we take the matter very seriously and take effective action. We work with parents, pupils and teachers to seek a positive outcome.



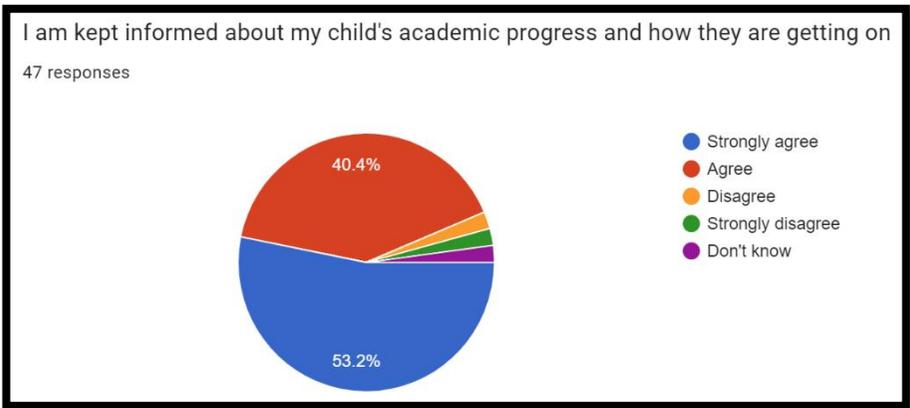
100% agreed / strongly agreed.

Our school is a very welcoming place, with an open door policy, and this is frequently commented on by visitors to the school. This does not happen by magic, it occurs through hard work and strong, respectful relationships and a dash of fun and laughter thrown in for good measure!



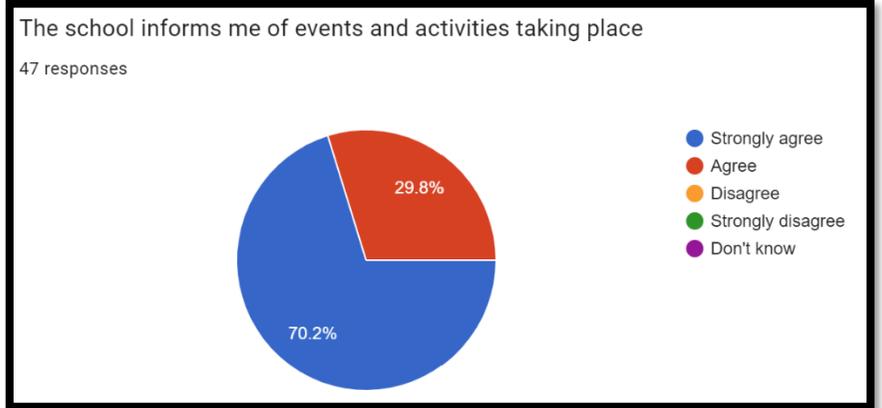
87% agreed / strongly agreed. 3 parents disagreed / strongly disagreed and 2 didn't know.

At the start of each term, learning overviews are sent home via email. These are also shared on the class website page. Resources to support learning for the term are also shared on Google Classroom.



83% agreed / strongly agreed. 2 parents disagreed / strongly disagreed and 1 parent didn't know.

Parents are invited to 3 open evenings throughout the year to formally discuss their child's progress. An end of year written report is also given. More informal discussions can take place if requested between parents and staff.

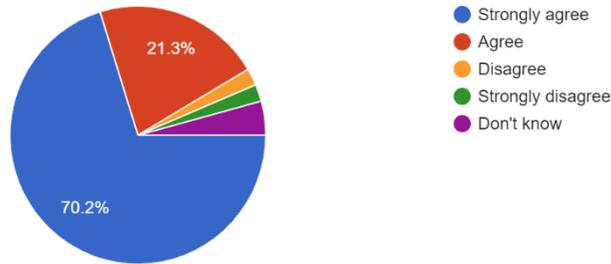


100% agreed / strongly agreed.

Effective communication in a school is really important and from this, it appears that we're on the right track! Arbor is our main source of communication, and we push out newsletter and other letters through this. We supplement it with Twitter, Facebook and Google Classroom.

I feel comfortable approaching the school with a question, concern or complaint

47 responses

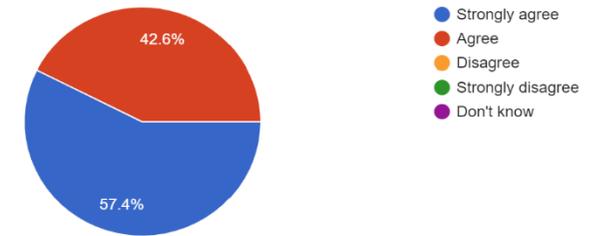


92% agreed / strongly agreed. 2 parents disagreed / strongly disagreed, and 2 parents didn't know.

We pride ourselves on the strong relationships we have with our parents and would hope that they felt comfortable to speak with us no matter how difficult the conversation was. We would want to know if parents had a concern as we would want to work together to seek to address it.

I know how I can contact my child's class teacher or a member of the school's senior leadership team

47 responses

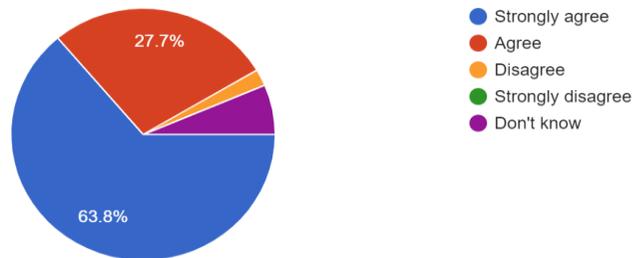


100% agreed / strongly agreed.

Staff are around at drop off and pick up times and can also be contacted via the admin email address or telephone. A member of the senior leadership team is on the gate each morning. It is great that parents recognise how staff can be contacted should the need arise.

The school supports my child's wider personal development through offering enriching experiences (trips, visitors, sporting events, music events etc.)

47 responses

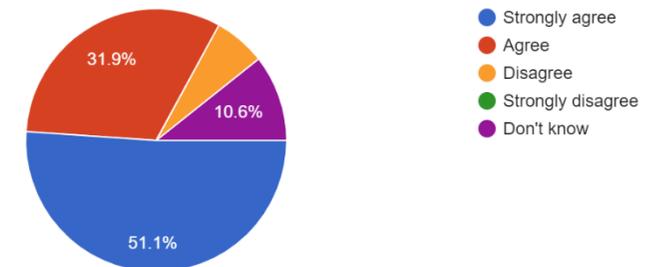


92% agreed / strongly agreed. 1 parent disagreed, and 3 parents didn't know.

Staff work hard to plan interesting and fun events for the children such as visits and visitors whilst still being mindful of costs to families. They also volunteer to deliver after school enrichment clubs to further enhance curriculum experiences. We are always seeking ways to improve our enrichment offer.

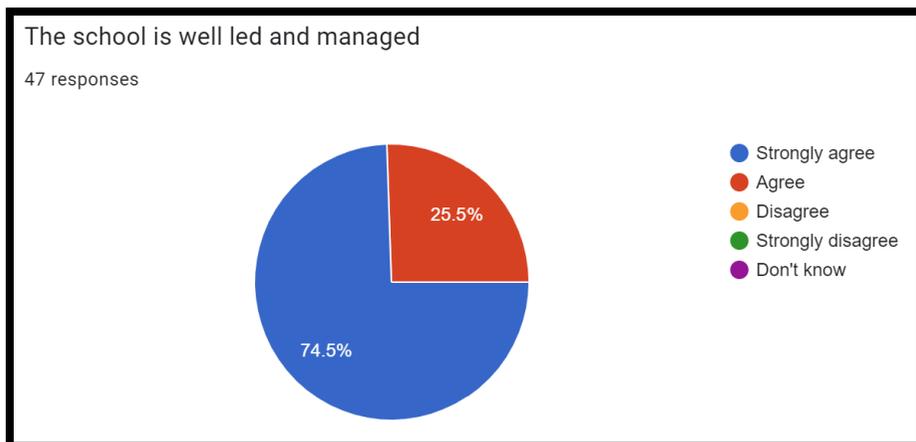
My child can take part in clubs and other enrichment activities

47 responses



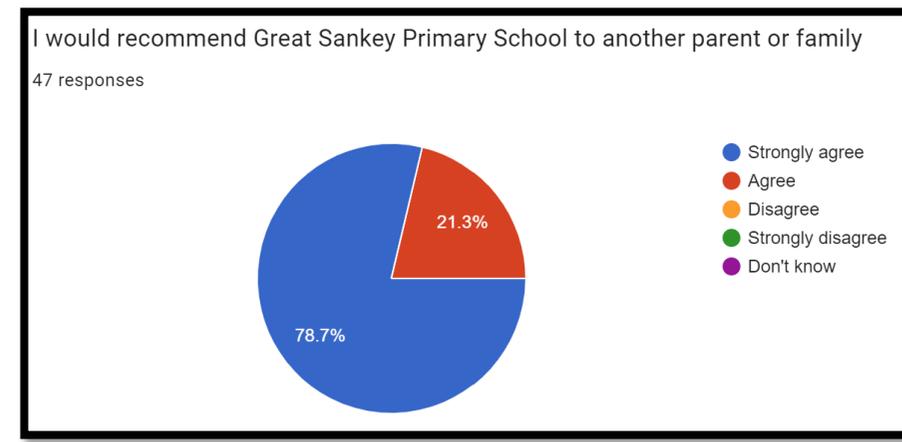
83% agreed / strongly agreed. 3 parents disagreed, and 5 parents didn't know.

The majority of parents who responded with 'disagree' or don't know' are parents of our early years' children including nursery. The full range of enrichment is not necessarily open to them due to their age, but this is something which we are looking into for next year to see what other opportunities there could potentially be for Reception children in the last two terms of the year.



100% agreed / strongly agreed.

This result helps to affirm the high standards and expectations that senior leaders, Governors and I have for the school and the positive collaboration we have with leaders at TCAT. We continue to evaluate our practices to ensure we are as effective as we can be.



100% agreed / strongly agreed.

There is no better affirmation than this result. We are very proud that 100% of parents who responded to the question would recommend us. We are also proud of the great reputation we have in our local community and across the town. Thank you.

In the survey, parents and carers were invited to comment on the following questions:

<p>What do you like most about Great Sankey Primary School?</p>	<p><i>There were so many comments about how amazing and friendly the staff are and how positive the relationships are right across the school. Parents commented on how approachable, and available, leaders and staff were and how they felt listened to and communicated with. Parents appreciated being met in the morning with a smile from leaders and staff, and how everyone always seemed happy in school, it was mentioned that there is a real 'family feel'. Alongside the holistic comments were those around the excellent progress children were making and the many curriculum and enrichment opportunities we provide for them to ensure they thrive in our school.</i></p> <p><i>The comments were wonderful to read and we are glad that you feel the same way about our school as we do. The strong positive relationships, the culture and ethos and the nurturing environment which we provide for our children are just some of our many strengths.</i></p> <p><i>Here are just some of the many positive comments we received:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A welcoming school where children feel safe, happy and achieve well. • The wonderful staff and opportunities for all the children such as enrichment clubs and trips. • Such a nurturing and caring environment, my son is thriving • Teachers are really good at communicating and have dealt with any issues we have had really well. • The staff all seem to get along very well, there seems to be a good rapport across the school. The children always seem happy arriving at school. There definitely seems to be a family feel, with Mrs Wilding welcoming us in the morning etc. It just creates a nice vibe. • The staff have created a happy, welcoming and safe environment where pupils learn and enjoy themselves. All of the staff have such a caring manner with pupils and it is so nice to see how everyone is greeted as they come into school every day. I'm so impressed by how nicely the children treat one another and the amount of opportunities they have such as trips and events in school. It is clear that the school value the
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	<p>wellbeing of pupils and this is evident on everything they do, which is of the utmost importance to me as a parent. I am so happy that we chose to send our daughter to GSP, she is excited to go in every day and her younger sister can't wait to join her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family feel. The headteacher knows each child and takes an interest in them as well as the fantastic relationship the class teachers have with them. • How the children learn through fun activities instead of just pen to paper all the time • The warm, safe and welcoming environment that you create for the children, which stems from the wonderful staff at the school and their values. I love that children develop a love for learning, but more so that they learn the importance of being kind, helping others and joining in the wider school community. The community kitchen, including food parcels and having costumes available for those in need is a wonderful initiative and whilst we are in a fortunate position that we do not need to use it I think it is an excellent idea and a great support for families at the school. • Clean, organised, everyone is so warm and friendly • The progress my child has made since being at the school is fantastic. She looks forward to coming into school. The school is welcoming and supportive. • My child loves attending school and any issues we have raised with the teacher have been dealt with effectively
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<p>What would you like us to do better at?</p>	<p><i>We really appreciate you taking the time to respond with suggestions on how we can continue to improve at Great Sankey Primary. Below, we have tried to answer some of your suggestions around reoccurring themes.</i></p>
<p>Homework - more / less!</p>	<p><i>This comes up time and time again on parent surveys - some parents want more, some less and some want none at all! So, it can be a tricky one for us to navigate!</i></p> <p><i>We try to keep homework to a minimum each week but with the additional offer of children completing more reading or having access to the many apps we purchase for them such as Ten Town, Spelling Frame, TT Rockstars etc should they wish to do more. We also understand that at the weekend, families are busy which is why we generally don't expect homework to all be done and handed in by Monday. Homework is there to simply reinforce the learning which has gone on in school but we understand that for some children it can be difficult and getting them to do their homework can be challenging. We would never want homework to cause a problem so if this is the case the please speak with the class teacher and we can look at solutions.</i></p> <p><i>Homework should always be acknowledged and marked either through the child self-marking, which would be guided by the teacher, or by teacher marking.</i></p>
<p>More Enrichment Clubs</p>	<p><i>We are proud of the many enrichment clubs we offer our children at lunchtime and after school. The vast majority of these are run voluntarily by our staff and we are very grateful to them for giving up their own time to enhance the experiences for our children.</i></p> <p><i>Our clubs this year have ranged from cross-stitch and crafts, to gardening and board games club, not to mention the many sports clubs which we run. We do appreciate that most of these are aimed at children in Key Stage 1 and 2. As a staff we will look at this to see how we can improve enrichment for our reception children next year. We hope that as they move into Key stage 1, our children in reception will take up more opportunities for clubs.</i></p> <p><i>If your child is in our After-School Wrap Around Care, they will return to Treetops at 4.15 after an enrichment club. Unfortunately, we are unable to keep a hot snack warm for them due to food hygiene regulations, but they do have the option of a sandwich / crackers and fruit.</i></p>
<p>More Visits and Visitors</p>	<p><i>From Key Stage 1 onwards, our aim is to offer a visit to an external place of interest or a visitor to school at least once a term to enrich the curriculum. We try to vary the experiences that the children have so that they link with their learning and are progressive as they move through the school. We also offer residential in Year 2, 4 and 6. We are always very mindful of cost and we have seen a huge increase in the price of coach hire recently and this does play a part in our choice of trip venues. Where we can, we aim to make the most of our local area as it has so much to offer. This year, we have also paid for or subsidised our visitors into school so that the costs are kept low for our families.</i></p> <p><i>The children in our Nursery have many opportunities to explore our school grounds and make lots of use of the outdoor areas, we do not offer external visits for our youngest children. Children in our Reception classes have the opportunity of welcoming visitors into school such as Wild Wings and the Reading Escape Rooms and then build up to an external trip to a place of interest in the summer term. Adult to pupil ratios are so much greater in the early years, particularly if taking them off-site and this does play a part in the number of visits we currently offer. In light of comments, we will re-look at our practices for visits for reception pupils to see how they can be further developed next year.</i></p>

<p>Better Communication</p>	<p><i>Our main form of communication is via Arbor and this comes through to you on your preferred email address. This is how we push out weekly newsletters and other types of letters and reminders. Each Friday, you will be sent a newsletter or bulletin which contains vast amounts of information around current happenings in school, notices as well as future events to be aware of. We always encourage our families to read these so they are kept up to date. We also share the link to the newsletters on our website and on the Twitter and school Facebook page. Please also use our website as the events calendar is kept up to date by our admin team so you can see what is coming up.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to Arbor, teachers may post reminders and updates on the class Twitter page and on Google Classroom. These are also places where you can see what the children have been getting up to or what the focus of the learning has or will be.</i></p> <p><i>We do take on board that class communication can sometimes be confusing and last minute, and we will address this with staff. There are times when things do need to change at the last minute through no fault of our own and we will seek to inform you as soon as we possibly can.</i></p> <p><i>We also ask that parents communicate with us via the admin email address or by telephoning into school. We cannot guarantee that messages sent over Google Classroom or via Twitter will be seen in a timely manner. Having a face-to-face conversation after school is always a great way to communicate too and we are more than happy to accommodate this. If you need to discuss an issue with a staff member, you can email into school admin@greatsankeyprimary.tcat.uk.com and make it for the staff member's attention or give us a ring and we will call you back at the end of the school day. A member of SLT is on the gate each morning and staff are also available to speak directly with at the end of the school day.</i></p>
<p>Inform us of what our children are learning</p>	<p><i>At the start of each term, an overview of learning for the term is sent out to all parents via email so that you are able to see the areas which will be covered throughout the term. This is slightly trickier in the Early Years as a proportion of the learning is child-led and therefore cannot be fully predicted in advance. However, we do recognise that the information given in the Early Years could contain more detail on what parents can focus on at home to support their child and we will seek to further develop this.</i></p> <p><i>Learning overviews are uploaded to your child's class page on the website and your child's Google Classroom also contains useful resources as well as homework information.</i></p>
<p>Let us know how our child is doing more frequently</p>	<p><i>We hold 3 formal parent meetings each year where you are invited to a discussion around your child's progress, in addition to this, there is a written report at the end of the school year which holds valuable information about your child's learning, behaviour and attitudes. There are other opportunities for you to meet with teachers on a more informal basis should you feel the need to. These could be a request made by you to have a meeting with the teacher or a short conversation at the school gate, we are always happy to accommodate these requests. If the class teacher feels that there is a particular need to speak with you regarding your child's progress, then they will make contact.</i></p>
<p>Changing classes each year</p>	<p><i>As we are a one and a half form intake, which means that we have 45 children per year group and class sizes on average are around 30, we have no option but to move the children about each year. We recognise for some children that this can cause some anxiety but please be reassured that as a staff, we spend hours ensuring we make the best decisions we can. At the start of each summer term staff start to look at the possible options for classes for the following year and take into account a number of things such as academic ability, friendships, personalities etc.</i></p>
<p>Other comments</p>	<p>Sometimes the spellings don't follow a pattern and it makes them hard to learn: <i>These words are the 'Common Exception Words' and are a set of words which follow no pattern and are deemed to be used the most frequently in that age of pupil. The government expectations are that the children in the specified age range can read and spell the majority by the end of that key stage.</i></p> <p>More work to explain that Christianity is one of many religions and just one way of thinking about the world: <i>Christianity is the official religion of the UK and therefore the RE curriculum in schools reflect this. Although we teach the children about the religion of Christianity, we also focus on other religions such as Islam, Judaism and Hinduism and explore these views and beliefs. We are currently looking at other ways in which we can further explore other religions and visit different places of worship associated with these religions.</i></p> <p>Lots more use of Twitter for class pictures: <i>We know that parents and carers love seeing their child's learning on Twitter and we endeavour to make at least 3 Tweets per class per week. We do recognise that whilst the vast majority of classes are prolific Tweepers, others may need a little more encouragement! We will of course share this observation with staff to ensure consistency and parity.</i></p> <p>Be stricter on uniform: <i>We pride ourselves on how smart our pupils look in their school uniform and we know that the children are proud to present themselves as a member of GSP. Our uniform policy is strict whilst remaining affordable and whilst we would like all children to wear jumpers, cardigans and sports shirts with our school logo, we recognise that these are sometimes not affordable for all families and support the fact that they provide their child with</i></p>

a plain grey jumper or PE T-shirt. In school we regularly challenge those children who do not wear correct uniform or sports kit and encourage parents to support us in adhering to the policy.

In what way would you like to see the school develop over the next 3 years?

We really appreciate you taking the time to respond with suggestions and ideas around future developments for our school. Many of you commented that what we were doing was enough as GSP was simply 'amazing'!

- Some of the comments centred around further developing our enrichment offer including clubs, visits and visitors which have all been addressed in prior commentary.*
- One parent would like to see the development of a Forest School which was something we have looked into and will continue to do so.*
- Development of the outdoor classroom and field – We are starting to use the classroom more for science, geography and orienteering lesson. We will continue to explore further uses for it to enhance the curriculum. The field is a great resource – when the weather is dry! We are looking at different options on how we can better use the field throughout the year.*
- Get children involved in local community projects – we love this idea and when opportunities arise, we jump at them. Last year we were involved in the Stitch Station knitting Jubilee Project and helped to decorate the local park, we also take part in Penketh Carnival each year. If anyone hears of anything we can get involved with then, please let us know.*
- Developing reward systems - There are many ways in which children are rewarded at GSP. We use daily verbal praise, visits to see Mrs Wilding, stickers, star of the day, star of the week, kindness postcards and house points which go towards our bronze, silver and gold awards. We are also currently developing a digital praise postcard which can be sent to parents via email. Our whole behaviour policy is based on positive affirmation and reinforcement.*
- More focus on mental health and strategies for coping with anxiety, fear and sadness - Our offer around building positive mental health and wellbeing is one we are proud of. Children have daily mindfulness sessions alongside weekly PSHE and My Happy Mind sessions all centred around building resilience and understanding and managing emotions. Many of our classes take part in weekly wellbeing sessions with Mr Cann from Progressive Sport. For those pupils who may need additional support, we have a pastoral worker, Miss Leah, who offers 'bubble-time' on a 1:1 basis or can offer emotional literacy support intervention. In addition to this, we have access to the services of a school counsellor and are able to seek guidance from mental health school link support workers.*
- More opportunities for private music lessons (vocal and instrumental) – we currently offer guitar and keyboard, but will look into this and explore other opportunities whilst being mindful of the cost to parents and carers.*
- Consideration for working parents – we feel that we do consider working parents as the vast majority of staff are also working parents so recognise how difficult this can be. Parents can contact us via email or telephone, and we will seek to get back to you at the end of the day. Parents' evening appointments run until 6.30 to cater for working parents.*
- Hold more events including more memorable calendar events – As I have mentioned previously on newsletters, we would love to hold more special events such as discos and movie nights for the children however these rely on many volunteers to plan, set up and run them. Over the last few years, parent numbers of volunteers have dwindled so we have been unable to hold many of these events. However, we now seem to have a core group of very willing (and wonderful) parents who are keen to get these events off the ground again and we look forward to putting them back on the calendar. GSP always tries to make special events memorable for our children and have previously had visiting reindeers and a dancing gingerbread man at Christmas, celebration music on the first day of term in September with bunting and banners, a 'street party' for the Jubilee and a festival of fun for Year 6 to name but just a few things. We already have plans afoot for the Coronation in May. If anyone has any further ideas or is willing to volunteer their time as part of 'Friends of GSP' then please let us know.*