

# Oaklands Junior School



4<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Dear Parents / Carers

Acting Headteacher:  
Mrs H West

## Parent Questionnaires – 2013 Results

Firstly, we'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to those of you who completed the parent questionnaires which we sent out towards the end of the Summer term. We really value your thoughts and feedback and these are already guiding the future direction of our school.

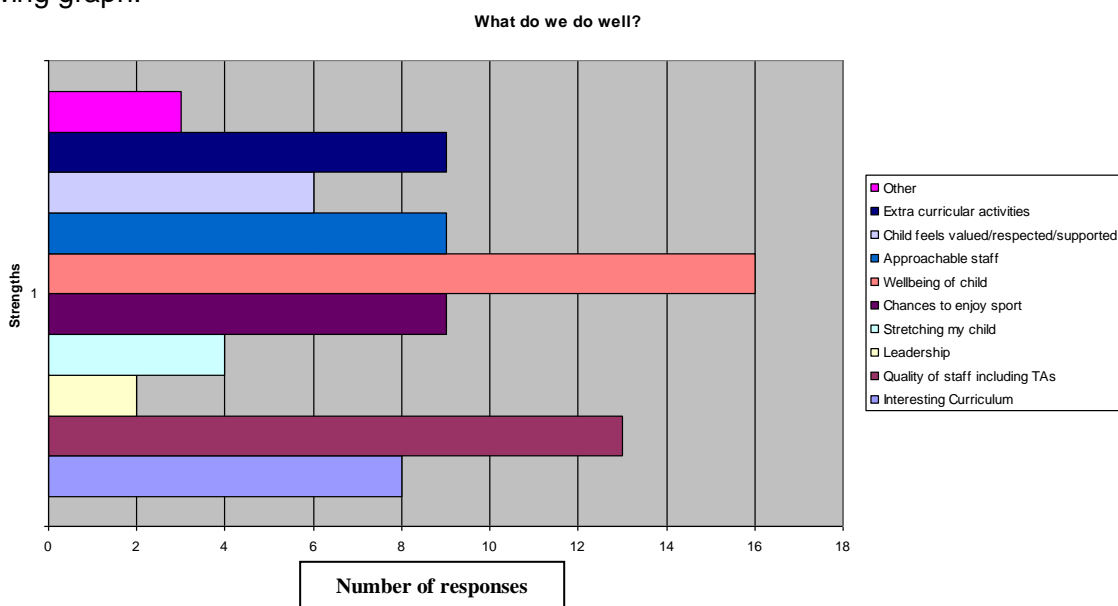
We had 69 responses and we were delighted that so many of you took the opportunity to complete the survey online which we hope proved quicker and easier for you.

We have spent some time analysing the results and in particular looking at the written responses about what we do well and what we could do better. We have turned these qualitative responses into quantitative results so that we can better understand any trends.

### What do we do well?

From the general survey, there was very strong agreement that we provide a safe environment where your children are well looked after. Your overall impression is also that your children enjoy coming to school and you believe we offer your children a good range of extra-curricular activities. As a result 85% of you either agree or strongly agree that you would recommend our school to prospective parents.

In terms of the written comments, we have captured what you think we do well in the following graph:



We are delighted that so many of you mention your child's wellbeing as something we do well. We are also pleased that so many of you took the opportunity to give positive praise to our teaching staff.

Last year, extra-curricular activities was frequently mentioned as an area we could improve, so we are really pleased that the work we have done in this area has resulted in some of you raising this as something we do well.

## **What could we do better?**

Whilst we are clearly delighted that there are many things you think we do well, as a school we are clearly interested in what it is that you think we could do better.

### **1. Vision**

The lowest scoring question on the survey (66% agreed or strongly agreed) related to the school's vision. The question was asked before we had had the opportunity to share with you our Thinking Schools initiative and we very much hope that you now understand our "Learning to Think, Thinking to Learn" philosophy. If you did not have the opportunity to attend the parent session or are still unsure about our vision please do come and speak to your child's teacher or to Mrs West.

### **2. Homework/Projects**

The second lowest scoring question (74% agreed or strongly agreed) was that your child receives appropriate homework for their age and ability. Homework and projects were also mentioned in the written section as an area for improvement. As a result of this we are going to review the consistency and appropriateness of the homework we set.

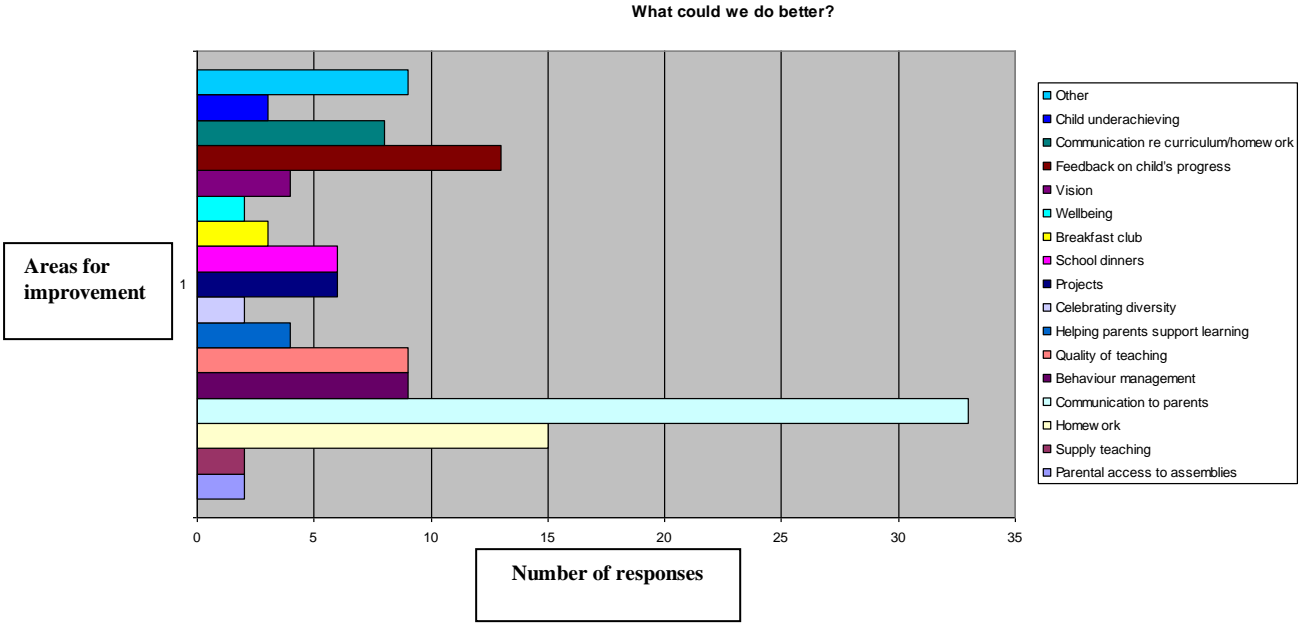
In terms of projects, we recently implemented a new system where we ask parents to indicate the amount of assistance they have given to the completion of a project. This is to help teachers identify the amount and quality of each child's contribution to the project so that the child can be rewarded and complimented accordingly. Whilst we recognise that project work provides a great opportunity for parents to work with their child and this is something we would actively encourage, ultimately project work is set to provide a child with the opportunity to show their initiative and creativity. We would therefore encourage "helping" not "doing"!

### **3. Communication**

The area most frequently raised by you as in need of improvement is communication. This was also raised as an issue in last year's questionnaire results. We hoped that the new website would alleviate some of the issues you experience, however, the roll-out of the new website has not gone as smoothly as we would like. It is gradually improving and we are working closely with the provider to rectify the issues. It remains our intention to provide parents with log-ins once the platform is more robust.

However, we would really welcome more of your thoughts on how we can improve our communication to you. More specifically, we would like to set up a working group of parents and staff to make some recommendations. If you could spare some time and have ideas about how we could improve please contact the school office. The group will include Mrs West and Justine Waight (Parent Governor).

Again, in terms of the written comments we have captured in a graph what you think we could do better:



**Actions Already Taken**

**1. Assemblies**

Over the past few years we have received a number of requests through the parent questionnaires to move the time of class assemblies in order to accommodate parents’ desires to attend these events. As recently announced, we have now been able to make this change with class assemblies now at the new time of 9am.

**2. School Dinners**

Many of you raised the issue of the quality and quantity of school dinners. This was an issue that we were aware of and we have been managing with our supplier Caterlink. We believe that the situation is improving and we now have a new cook. We are continuing to monitor the provision of school dinners very closely.

**3. Feedback on Children’s Progress**

A few of you mentioned that you felt your child’s progress at school wasn’t being discussed frequently enough. Another initiative we have recently introduced is 1:1 feedback sessions between every child and their teacher. At these sessions, your child and their teacher discuss the child’s progress and where they could make improvements. Together they agree targets. We think this is a valuable way of encouraging every child and for them to have some private time with their teacher. We would encourage you to talk to your child about their targets and how they feel they are doing at school.

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s progress, then please do make an appointment to discuss this with your child’s teacher.

## **Actions from Last Survey**

We are pleased to see improved results in areas where actions were taken as a result of last year's feedback. In particular, some concerns were expressed about the transition from the Infant School to the Junior School and as a result improvements were made to the transition process and the parents' information evening.

Also, it was clear from last year's survey that there was a lack of understanding about the role of the Parent Support Advisor. We therefore asked Nikki Lenon to publicise her role more and there is more information always available on our website. As a result this year's response is much improved.

Ultimately, we hope that you recognise the importance we place on your feedback from the questionnaires and that this encourages you to complete the questionnaire this year.

## **Pupil Questionnaires**

You may or may not be aware that we also surveyed our pupils in the Summer term. We asked the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 questions relating to their favourite and not so favourite subjects, how happy they were at school, how safe they felt at school, about any worries they had and about extra curricular activities.

The results of the survey have been analysed and fed back to the class teachers. The actions we are taking are as follows:

- Running assemblies to cover such items as "friendship issues" which were raised as a concern by some.
- Utilising the School Council to discuss some of the results and propose actions
- Individual teachers are also using these results to make improvements to their lessons where needed.

## **And finally...**

We do value all the feedback that we get and remain committed to becoming an "outstanding" school. So thank you once again for being so honest and providing your feedback – we hope you can see that it really does make a difference to us.

If you have any questions about any of the above or any further feedback please come and see Mrs West (in the playground before or after school or by appointment) or any of the Governors.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H West  
Acting Headteacher



Mr J McLaren  
Chair of Governors