

Oaklands Junior School

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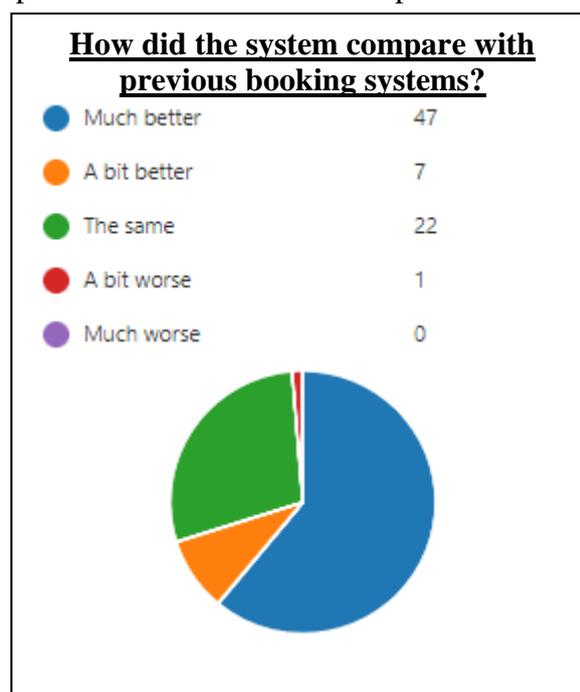
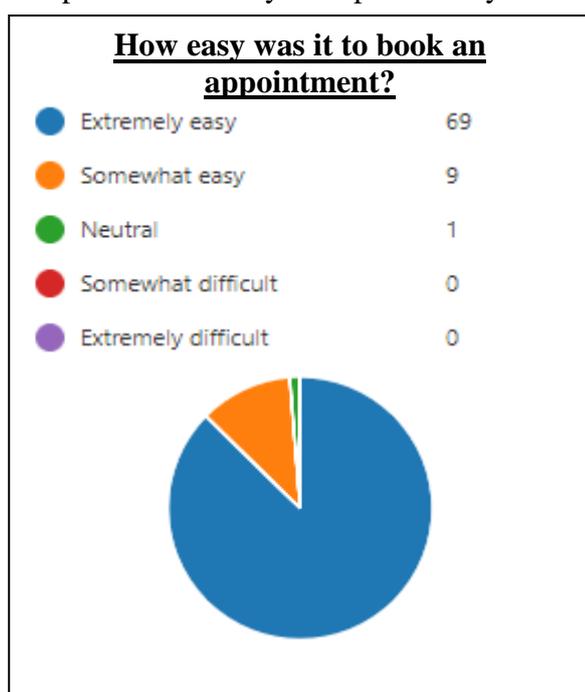
14th January, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

During last term, we sent out two surveys for parents to complete. Thank you for all your responses which have been greatly appreciated in helping us to work on how we can improve our provision. Below is a brief summary of the results and our responses.

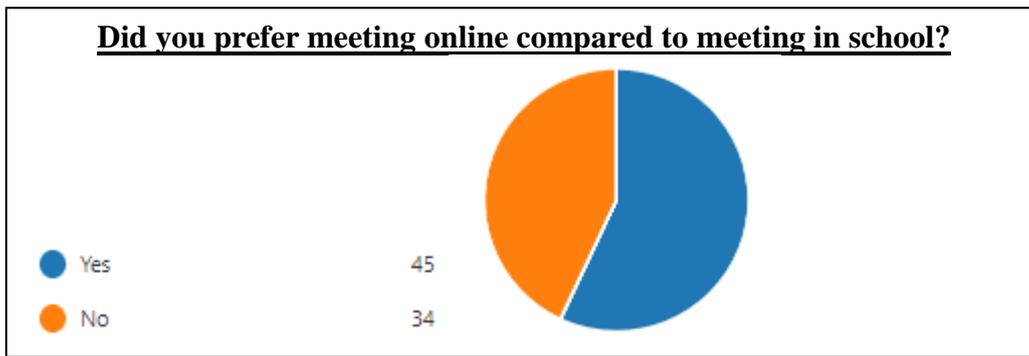
Parents' Evening Survey

We received 79 responses covering 92 meetings as many parents have more than one child in school. From the responses, it appears that the online booking system was easy to use and compared favourably with previous systems. The pie charts below show the responses.



66 out of the 79 responses indicated there were no difficulties in joining an allocated meeting. The greatest issue reported was that the email containing the joining instructions was put in to junk folders due to security software. Considering this was the first time we had used this system, the number of issues was pleasingly few and, with the support of our IT team, we expect that these can be overcome for any future events.

The responses for preference of online compared to in school meetings indicated a fairly even split edging towards a preference for online meetings.



Thank you to all who added a comment for our feedback. Overwhelmingly, these revolved around the online compared to in-school meetings discussion. It is clear that many of you felt the online system was more convenient in terms of child care, accessing from differing locations, saved time and meant not having to finish work early.

The main suggestions for improvement centred around the opportunity to view children’s work and visit the classroom environment. This is an issue that we have discussed as an SLT with staff and we are actively looking at ways to address this with our next parents’ evening, should this also be online.

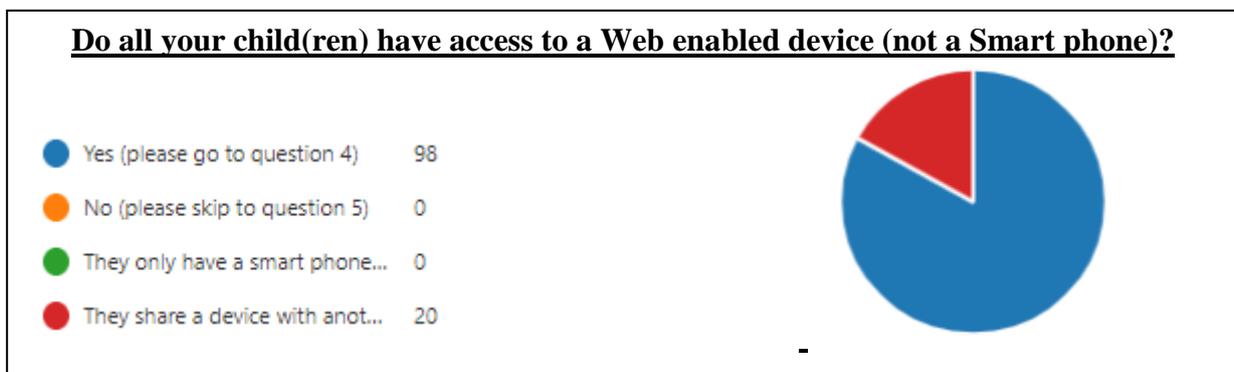
We will also endeavour to research how we can possibly let you know if a teacher is running late, although overall the appointments did keep to schedule. With up to 32 meetings taken by every teacher after a full working day, it is not feasible for meetings to be increased to 15 minutes. Teachers were available for over 6 hours of meetings over three days. Increasing to 15 minutes would require at least 8 hours of availability, without breaks, and this would require another evening for meetings, when we had already added an extra evening so that we could offer three days instead of the usual two. If it is felt a more in-depth discussion is needed then this can always be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

Finally, many of you indicated that you missed the face-to-face interactions and this feeling is mutual. We look forward to the day when we can, once again, welcome parents and carers back into school.

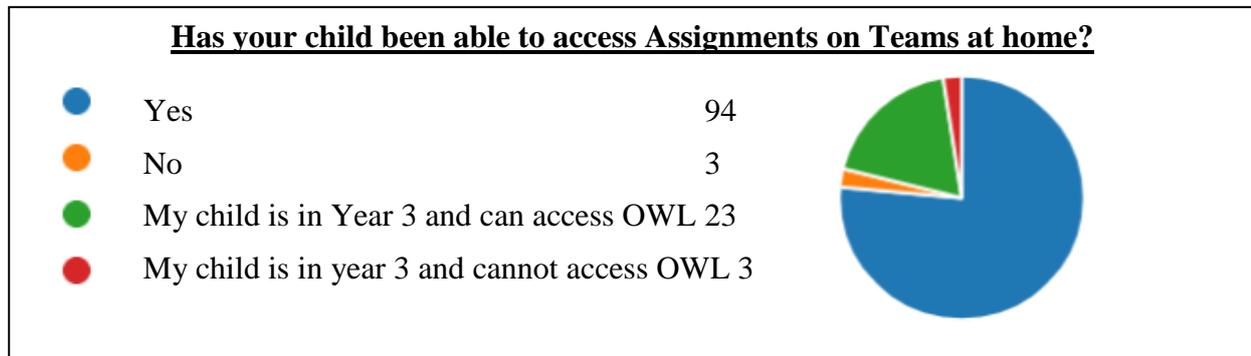
Online Home Learning Survey (from first Lockdown)

We received 118 responses to the IT survey covering 133 children.

It is clear that we are in a very privileged position as a community in having such good access to devices for access to the Internet.



As we increasingly move online with learning, it is positive that the overwhelming majority of children can access our provision either through Teams or OWL. Only one child in Years 3-6 was identified as not being able to access Teams.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to write a comment about the online learning during the summer lockdown. The feedback was very varied, addressing everything from the difficulties of sharing computers and insufficient bandwidth for multiple devices to be online at once, to the danger of macros in Word documents.

There were a significant number of requests for a more interactive teaching programme in the event of another school closure. As you will have seen in our plans for closure shared on 22nd October, if a whole bubble is closed we will post videos every day to introduce tasks and provide a feedback session later on the same day. We will use a recording, which can be accessed at any time, as we cannot ensure all children will be able to be online if the session is taught live.

We have also looked at ways to address the requests for more feedback. Through online systems, such as Teams or Maths Whizz, this has been improved and we, as a staff, have been learning about the potential in these programmes. Obviously during the summer lockdown it was not possible for a physical transfer of materials to be implemented but we will continue to investigate the possibilities.

As I am sure you appreciate, the suddenness and severity of the previous lockdown allowed little time for planning and implementation of the delivery of the curriculum in an entirely different way. Despite the myriad of difficulties involved, staff at Oaklands Juniors deserve credit for:

- A willingness to adapt to new ways of working,
- Putting themselves at risk to support children's learning,
- Catering for individual children and families' needs.

This was all despite no face-to-face contact and having to deal with their own personal circumstances, which is a testament to their professionalism and dedication.

The feedback you have given has been tremendously helpful in identifying both what worked well and areas for improvement in our use of IT for home learning. It is only through such constructive sharing of views, opinions and information that we can make the changes necessary to be at our most effective. While it will not be possible to cater for every specific wish from each individual response to the survey, we will always try to provide the best education and support to our families as we possibly can, whatever the circumstances.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. H. West
Headteacher