

Black Horse Hill Infant School – Parents/Carers Views of the School March 2016

Please find attached the responses from parents/carers to our parental questionnaire.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. We are always looking for ways to improve our provision for our children and their families.

F1

What did we do well?	Even Better if?	Headteacher's response
Happy with everything! XXXXXX is really happy in her school and loves her teachers. Thank you for all your hard work!		Thank you!
Everything! XXXXXX has come on so much since attending Black Horse Infant School. Teachers are amazing; XXXXXX has such lovely things to say about all of them!	Nothing!	I am very lucky to have such a committed, talented and caring school team.
Keep parents informed and up to date. Children feel able to express themselves as the staff are very approachable and work hard so each individual child can reach their potential.		
Support my child with his speech development. Great literacy week and book exchange breakfast. Teachers excellent as always.	Could provide any support/literature to help my son understand his home situation; separated parents. Only issue with school is the continued use of scooters and bikes in the playground despite notices for it to stop. Needs to be enforced as have witnessed accidents and near misses too often.	During circle times and P.S.H.E sessions we talk about how all families are different. We also use books such as "The Large Family" to explore these issues. Parents/carers are reminded regularly in newsletters that children should not use bikes and scooters in the playground. It is also reinforced with the children during assembly time. I will continue to monitor this situation.
Your aim to involve them (the children) as much as possible with the main school i.e. Easter Bonnet Parade, Number Day etc. Very good at integrating school rules and policies	Perhaps have some sort of lunch club which children could pay for. Children would have to provide their own lunch. It would mean children would get used to having their lunch at school. Lunch would be consumed in the F1 classroom (Great Meols Preschool have it)	Excellent idea! We will look to introduce this in the next academic year (2016-2017) for F1 children.

What did we do well?	Even Better if?	Headteacher's response
Weekly update letter on what the main topics they have covered that week. The sticky notes in reading journal are useful e.g. practise... PT meetings, Learning Journals, Approachable after school if I have a concern.	More communication (even the sticky note idea if something in particular she is struggling with or needs to practise.	I have talked about this with the Foundation Stage team. We will introduce a homework book for Foundation Stage children similar to what we have in KS1.
My daughter has settled really well and feels secure and confident. She has happy and supportive teachers. Enjoys class topics and school assembly. I hear all about them and how engaging and fantastically they are delivered to the kids.	We had a communication book that maybe homework sheet was in. We could write comments in or teachers could ask us something specifically to work on with our kids. More provisions to outside playground. What about a scooter area for playtime.	See above.
Great that someone answers phone in the office (v. helpful). Deal with issues quickly/listen to parents. Create a caring, friendly environment for the children. Fantastic idea to engage children. Literacy week, Roald Dahl, Ducklings The Arctic was amazing. Parents Evening/The Nativity (although PA need to record and photos to buy would be good). Phonics/maths excellent	Communication with parents. I would really like to know more about what XXXX is learning about in the <u>next</u> week not when it has already been done. When the children learnt about 'The Arctic' it went on for long enough so that I could talk to her about it. It is very hard for parents when 1 st child goes to school, especially if you go from nursery – get lots of information about child's day to only a little bit at school. I know teachers are very busy and they do an excellent job and have to juggle own families as well. Just would be good if we got the same info we get about what they did this week. i.e. tennis with Craig and Easter Bunny and then what they will be doing the following week. If I knew they were doing tennis could knock a ball together and talk about the game. Phonics lesson – great you did it. The presenter should know exactly how the school runs before she presents, (also do this Sept/Oct). <u>Maths</u> - great, thanks for doing. In Sept when child starts parents need to know processes – be clearer – what they need for PE, what the rewards are and when they need to be returned, when homework needs to be in. Explain that you stick homework in child's book. Also show parents <u>how</u> to use bug club and athletics – to get best out of it Thank you!	Our Curriculum Evening delivered at the beginning of the academic year provides parents/carers with an overview of what will be taught and our approach to teaching and learning. Each term parents/carers receive an overview of the learning that will take place that term. This is sent home as a paper copy and it is also placed on the school website. In addition, our weekly homework sheet provides an overview of the learning that has taken place that week. As we want to excite the children and engage them in new learning experiences we don't feel it would be beneficial to tell parents what the children will be learning in the next week. At our induction afternoon which takes place in June we share with parents/carers uniform / clothing needed. I appreciate that there is a lot of information presented at both our induction afternoon and Curriculum Evening. I will review the information shared with parents/carers.

What did we do well?	Even Better if?	Headteacher's response
I love the workshops you do and the opportunity parents have to come in and work with our children. I like the teaching methods with a lot of emphasis on learning through play. I like the school ethos and friendliness.	A bit more notice for workshops, so it is easier to make arrangements with work. One of my friends children goes to Townfield Primary and showed me a system they have for being able to log online and view videos of their child's key moments. I know we have the website, but It would be lovely to see videos as well as photographs	We try to plan Parent Workshops in advance as much as possible. This year however we held a phonics workshop because Foundation 2 parents had requested it. I love the idea of video and key moments available online. I will contact Townfield and ask them about the system that they use.
Have opportunities for quick messages before school and after if needed. Encourage parents to consistently practice writing. The newsletter/homework sheets every week are fabulous and very informative.	If for example, the phonics workshop was on different days. I always seem to miss these classes as I work on a Monday. More visits to the school library would encourage her to read more books. She seems to have the same book for a few weeks. More parental control over lunch choices or some feedback on eating habits in school, (I'm not sure if the dinner ladies give feedback if my child doesn't eat healthily).	Yes, we can vary the days our workshops are delivered to parents/carers. Children in Foundation 2 usually visit the library weekly. They are encouraged to change their books. The school lunch menus are available on the school website so parents/carers can talk about the meal options with their child. Our Midday Assistants do monitor the children's eating habits and they will speak to the child's class teacher if there are any concerns e.g. a child not eating their lunch.
Imaginative learning, engaging children's imagination in their learning. Allowing children to explore their own capabilities with appropriate guidance. Learning goals clearly stated and progress towards goals is clearly stated.		
The school does a brilliant job of involving the parents in activities with the children. It's really nice to see how you're teaching them so we can build on that at home. The staff are really friendly and approachable. It's lovely to see the Headteacher knows the children as individuals. XXXX loves going to school which makes me so happy. XXXX's teacher sees his strengths and weaknesses which should be the case but isn't always and she does a brilliant job helping him to improve. His TA is wonderful too.	This continues. You're all fantastic. I'm so glad he attends Black Horse Hill Infants.	Thank you!
Provision of activities in the classroom and outside area is excellent, with lots of variety and frequently changing topics. The teaching team are brilliant, catering for my child's extra needs as part of the everyday routine. They go the extra mile to provide an excellent standard of education - the Christmas craft morning, the trip to the Arctic, the duckling, the lovely photographic record of my child's Learning journey; and they do it with a smile!	Soft surface on the big playground. Music lessons would be great - keyboard and guitar, percussion maybe. The kids could make their own instruments, and play them to accompany a rhythm track / African drumming circle. (Private lessons paid for by the parents would be good too).	We have bought lots of new equipment for the children to play with at playtimes. I do agree that the playground does need a bit of a re-vamp. We are liaising with the LA about a project for the future. We teach music as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum. We will often incorporate music into our cultural weeks.

What did we do well?	Even Better if?
I am so happy with every aspect of my child's schooling. I think that learning is made such fun at Black Horse Hill. There is always something fun and exciting going on which keeps the children enthusiastic about learning. Black Horse Hill is such a wonderful environment for children to thrive.	
I am very happy with the quality of care, teaching and opportunities that XXXXX receives at school. He is always happy and enthusiastic about going in which makes me happy to see that he feels safe and secure. All the staff do a fantastic job!	
Very supportive and balanced school. My child has progressed well and all the children seem very happy and excited to go in each day, which obviously shows the school is a happy place to be. Amazing teachers who think of unique ways to keep children motivated.	
Celebration is an excellent idea and golden time too.	

What did we do well?	Even Better if?	Headteacher's response
Make learning fun	Outdoor learning reintroduced	We try to incorporate outdoor learning for Yr1 pupils as much as possible.
Like the after school activities. Good after school club. Communicate a lot with letters. Easy to talk to teachers. Reception good to answer phone, never have to wait long to be answered. Good to sell uniform cheaper/pre-owned. Good school dinners.	Maybe have long term activities to last longer than one term. Maybe charge after school club by the hour so might be more popular. More activities done in after school club, e.g. more crafts, simple cooking, singing, competitions. More of play area outside. Locked area for scooters. F1 full day instead of half days.	I will share this with the Out of School Club providers. Yes, I agree our playground needs a re-vamp. This is something we could use money raised by FOBHS for. In the academic year 2016-2017 we are going to look at our F1 provision to see if we can provide an afternoon session and full days.

Black Horse Hill Infant School - Views of the School March 2016 - 2RMcL

What did we do well?	Even Better if?	Headteacher's response
Have the children's interests at heart. Keep parents informed. Keeping the Twitter page and website updated. Delivers information clearly and precisely. Makes super use of the school texting system. Holds relevant parent sessions which are welcoming.	Perhaps introduce an online payment system. Added gold star winner first names to the school website each week. Keep parents updated with school council news i.e. termly school council newsletter.	I will speak to Mrs Harris in the office of the benefits of an online payment system. Great idea but the issue would be who would be able to add this information to the website on a weekly basis as there could be up to 60 gold star winners each week. I really like the idea of a School Council newsletter.
Provide a nurturing/welcoming environment. Provide a stimulating learning environment. Work with other agencies to meet my son's needs. Communicate with parents.		
Supporting children's different levels and needs. After school activities. Good events (regular)	We had some sort of holiday club.	This is something we have talked about at our Governors' Meetings. Watch this space!
Caring environment – nurturing. Children make good progress in R, W, M. Excellent Headteacher and Deputy – very approachable. XXX says everyone friendly. Great having a breakfast /after school facility. Great TAs in class. XXX feels safe in school.	Clubs after school were all free e.g. dance club. An adult could check whether reading book has been changed and is suitable. School dinner menu could be changed to more kid friendly meals – XXX. More communication between Infants and Juniors as they don't 'believe' the levels they go up with and say this at parents evening! XXX could 'Queen' in celebration assembly as she hasn't been chosen yet - XXX	We have provided some free clubs this year e.g. breakfast Karate and lunchtime dance sessions unfortunately our school budget doesn't stretch to paying for all out of school clubs. Edsential our meal providers have launched a new menu and the children and parents are currently voting on their favourite. It is disappointing to read this. Year 2 and Year 3 staff meet with the Headteachers to discuss the Year 2 children's levels. A professional discussion takes place about why certain levels have been awarded. Clearly there is more work to be done. We will do our best!
Support, Kindness, Motivation, Discipline, Patience, Challenge and Stretch. Best things about my teachers: they are kind, they help me, they are funny	Not too keen on the new school lunches, but better than the juniors... They had 3 breaks in Year 3. There nothing here, the time XXXX has spent with you has been a joy, a challenge and a lot of fun. She leaves you well prepared <u>THANK YOU</u>	Thank you.
Support the children. Listen to any concern. Teach well. Assess well.	More homework. More trips. More parents evenings.	Homework is a difficult one. Some parents/carers want more some less! Yes, I agree we could look at organising more trips. I will talk to the Key Stage Leaders. Parents/carers can speak to our teaching staff about their child at any time during the year.

Black Horse Hill Infant School - Views of the School March 2016 - 2JF

What did we do well?	Even Better if?	Headteacher's response
Plenty of opportunity to talk to teachers. Lively, fun assemblies. Communicate well with parents. Make learning fun.	There were better reading books. The library was better stocked.	Our Bug Club reading scheme has led to a great improvement in reading standards. Some of our supplementary Home Practice Readers do need replacing. The Subject Leader for reading is at present looking for new reading material.
Working with children according to their ability.		
I feel that parent's evenings are a great opportunity to speak to XXXXX's teacher and find out how he is getting on. Mrs Fitzgerald is very approachable and thorough in discussing XXXXX's progress and showed us all XXXXX's working Journals which we are able to look through and talk to her about. Very happy with XXXXX's progress at 'Black Horse Hill' and all the interaction with his teachers on parents evening have proved very enjoyable, positive and encouraging. Thank you x		
I love how it feels like a small school even though there are 2 classes per year. Every teacher seems to know all the children well.	The teachers weren't so pressured by the new syllabus. I'm super impressed by XXXX's / XXXXX's reading and writing and maths abilities, as well as some of the lovely topics they have studied. I hate the fact that they have to sit tests age 7 and the teachers are under scrutiny. They do a fab job. Shame they can't just enjoy teaching without the pressure of the SATs. I won't be concerned about the results. Thank you	We love teaching at Black Horse Hill Infant School! As a school we are determined that we will continue to provide an exciting, engaging curriculum which also develops the key skills that our children need to be successful in the future. Although we have felt under pressure this year from endless government initiatives we remain committed to our educational beliefs; we know how young people learn best.
Building rapport. Pride in their school. Anti-bullying. Children of all abilities are included holistically giving them all a sense of achievement. A happy place to be.	The ability to receive forms by email and to be able to digitally sign and return by email and of course make an online payment if needed.	We will look into this.
Teaching, Mentoring, Having Fun, Out of School Club	Better choice for school dinners. More feedback of child's progress (not formally in meetings but maybe in homework book/reading diary etc.)	I think these issues have been addressed above.
Everything is professional yet caring and friendly at Black Horse Hill Infants, I could not ask for better teachers (Mrs Bancroft and Mrs Pugh – XXXXX, Mrs Fitzgerald – XXXXXXXX) for my two extremely different boys, they definitely know them! Communication is paramount at BHH and this reflects in the care XXXXXXXX has received since starting in F2! Amazing School!	Nothing!	