



TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Higher Bebington Junior School

Mill Road, Higher Bebington, Wirral, CH63 8QE
www.higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk

E-mail: schooloffice@higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk
Tel/Fax: 0151 608 1011

Headteacher: Mrs S. Calveley B.Ed.(Hons)

July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete the recent questionnaire. A total of 233 responses were completed. Thank you on behalf of all our staff for the many positive comments that were received and also for your ideas and suggestions. We are always looking for ways that we can improve our school for your children and these will be shared with staff and governors as part of our continued drive to move the school forward.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire Outcomes 2021-2022

	Agree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Not Applicable
My child is happy at this school	97%	1%	2%	
My child feels safe at school	99%	0.3%	0.7%	
<u>Response</u> We were very pleased that the overwhelming majority of parents feel that their children are happy and safe at our school. We recently commissioned Health and Safety and Safeguarding audits from independent companies who both confirmed the same. However, as always, I would actively encourage any parent who feels this is not the case to contact us so that we can discuss this further and work together to improve this for your child.				
Does the school make sure my child is well behaved?	98%	0%	2%	
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	11%	2%	6%	81%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	88%	2%	10%	
<u>Response</u> Again, we are pleased that vast majority of parents either have no experience of bullying at our school or feel that issues have been dealt with effectively. However, if this is not the case, I would again strongly encourage parents to contact us so that we can discuss this further.				



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The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	92%	1%	7%	
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	97%	0%	3%	
The school has high expectations for my child	96%	0.4%	3.6%	
My child does well at this school	95%	1%	4%	
The school lets me know how my child is doing	95%	1%	4%	
The school supports my child's wider personal development	90%	0.8%	9.2%	

Response

This year, we have been delighted to have been able to welcome parents back into school for two Parent's Evenings. For many of you with children in years 3 and 4, this will have been the first time you have been able to see inside the school! Details of what your child is learning are sent home each term and more information can be found on our school website. The school Twitter account also offers little snapshots into everyday life at school. At the end of the year, you will also receive your child's annual written report and we are holding an 'open classroom' after school where you can come and have a look at their books. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel you would like further information – their class teacher is always happy to help.

Supporting your child's wider development through various activities is something we care very deeply about. The Pupil Leadership Team provides many opportunities for leadership across a range of areas from the Pupil Parliament, Science Ambassadors, Sports Crew, House Captains, Reading Reps and Play Leaders to name but a few. We are also offering a range of before and after school clubs over the year including tennis, judo, dodgeball, athletics, gymnastics, basketball and football. At lunch times there have also been War Hammer, Pokémon and homework clubs available. We will look at expanding these to incorporate a wider range of activities and interests.



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Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	40% of respondents have a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)			
If yes to above (SEND question) would you say the school gives your child the support they need to succeed	44%	1%	4%	51%
I would recommend this school to another parent	Yes 99.5%		No 0.5%	
We are delighted that so many parents would recommend our school to another parent.				

What do you like most about the school?

Here is a snapshot of some of the responses.

Children's Wellbeing

- It has traditional values, puts the individual child at the heart of their learning and allows them to grow as individuals.
- The overall feeling of support and encouragement for my daughter has been a constant from the beginning of her Higher Bebington journey.
- The genuine care for developing the whole child.
- It's fantastic that HBJS has such high expectations for children of all abilities and the positive language/growth mindset really helps our child.
- I don't think other schools would've helped my child as much as Higher Bebington have.
- I think the school cater for emotional needs as well as educational, which is imperative especially as social media takes a place in their lives and the inevitable effect this will have on their wellbeing in school.
- Lovely to see my son go into school and come home happy every day.
- They treat the children as individuals taking into account their own abilities and weaknesses.
- We love how our child has grown in confidence and treat them like individuals.
- Everyone is so friendly and the encouragement given to the children is amazing. We are so happy as our little one is so happy.
- I like that the child is put first, the school cares a lot about the child's education but they also care a lot about the well-being of the child.
- The focus on ensuring every child succeeds and other support available. Also the much needed balance on their education and welfare.



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Staff

- I like that the staff are approachable and listen to parents if we have concerns.
- My daughter feels valued and has grown in confidence, thanks to all the teachers and their hard work.
- A real family feel all staff are very approachable
- There is always a friendly face from members of staff who appear happy in their roles and always there to talk if needed.
- My child has developed well and benefited from supportive and motivated teachers and school staff.
- How supportive and encouraging the teachers are with my son.
- Every teacher we have come across has known my child really well, taught them well and is dedicated to their progress.
- The whole school staff are very good with the children and work hard to develop each child's education and skills.
- Dedicated, professional and ultimately caring staff - teachers, office staff, TAs; everybody I've ever come across in HBJS is so kind and cannot help enough.
- How the staff try to encourage a love for learning.
- The teaching staff make learning for my child enjoyable and interesting, as well as providing extra help and support when needed.
- I feel there is a positive focus around SEND and that staff quickly recognise emerging needs
- Friendly staff who we can interact with when needed on the playground, or else emails are responded to quickly.
- Quality of teachers and responsive Head Teacher.
- This school supports not only the child but the family as a whole. I could not be happier with the school and seeing my child's enthusiasm for school and learning is truly wonderful to see. He wants to learn and wants try his best every day because of the staff's wonderful approach to teaching.
- My child enjoys coming to school and speaks so highly of all the teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime staff. She is making great progress and has received some support for developing her confidence which has been great. The school has a warm, nurturing and caring atmosphere.



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Communication

- Excellent communication, clear and concise.
- The school is well organised and communication is clear and timely.
- I like that the school has a very friendly approach, you can always contact and staff are professional and friendly and very supportive.
- It's well organised and the communication is perfect.
- Communication/notices via IRIS are really appreciated - so organised with reminders and notes from staff.
- Communication is outstanding.
- Communication is brilliant too, cannot fault it.
- They keep the parents informed thought out their child's educational journey
- Communication through Parent Mail is excellent, as parents we are kept well informed.

Curriculum

- I like the extra support that my son gets, also I am regularly get informed on his progress.
- The school delivers an exciting curriculum e.g. French, food testing, History days etc.
- My child also talks about current events in the news and is now taking responsibility for her own learning.
- The consistency and breadth of education
- There is a good balance of hard work as well as fun activities.
- Lots of opportunities to learn and develop more.
- That my child is happy. She is excited by opportunities brought to her.

Behaviour and Ethos

- We also appreciate receiving the cards from school praising the children.
- It's just a lovely community school. The children are respectful.
- The school has the warmest feel to it-my daughter has thrived here.
- Good communication, friendly, community feel, understanding and supportive staff.
- It feels like a family.
- Appears to have a nice atmosphere and good ethical values
- The school has a lovely, happy atmosphere whilst at the same time being education focused.
- Support and nurturing environment. Patience, care and support for SEND.
- The warm, caring and happy environment that the staff provide for the children to learn in and the recognition of good work and behaviour.
- Strong sense of community



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Higher Bebington Junior School would be even better if...

It would be great to know term to term of the topics the children are learning.

Information reading the curriculum is sent via Parent Mail each term and is available on the school website. Next year we hope to hold subject specific information evenings for example on Maths and Reading.

More extracurricular activities. We definitely miss the pre-Covid range of sports. I thought that extra school activities, e.g. a school football/cricket/netball team would be available without having to pay additional costs.

This year we have tried to build up the range of clubs and activities offered after such a long break due to Covid-19. Due to limitations with the hall, we can only have one club in there per afternoon so usually try to ensure each year group has one on offer. Where we have to use outside providers such as Full of Beans or Mad Science, there will be a charge to attend the clubs to cover their staffing costs. However, where clubs are run by school staff e.g. football, choir, maths club, Pokémon etc. then the club is free of charge. In September, we are looking to increase the amount of clubs and activities run by school staff.

The entrance gates were wider.

We know that this is an issue that comes up regularly. We would also like the pavements outside school to be wider too! We have had various visits from the Local Authority and our Assets Management provider to discuss but as yet we haven't been offered a solution that is cost effective and more importantly, wouldn't take up a large amount of the already limited playground space.

Improve the use of digital forms/communication more widely.

We are trying to make better use of the many forms of digital communication available to us. This is always contentious as although many parents and carers prefer communication via Parent Mail, some also state that they find this hard to keep up with and would prefer paper copies. We will continue to review our forms and communications to try and ensure they are as efficient as possible for both parents/carers and us as a school.

The amount of online homework platforms can be a difficult to manage at times.

We know that the use of various apps and accompanying passwords (SeeSaw, Go Read, TT Rockstars. etc) can also be hard to keep up with. We are reviewing these at the end of the year to see how we can make this easier for the children and parents/carers.



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The inconsiderate parking of parents and the danger it poses to our children.

Like many schools, the traffic situation outside is a serious concern. It is particularly difficult on days when the weather is poorer. I have sent numerous newsletters remind parents about their responsibly to park and drive safely down this road and to park await from school where possible to ease congestion and make it safer for everyone. **Sadly, there are still a number of parents who continue to ignore these requests and put the lives of children and their parents/carers at risk.** We have had visits from traffic enforcement officers but sadly, as there is a similar situation around most Wirral schools, they are unable to visit as frequently as we would like. The local council have also been unable to offer much in the way of support. Most recently we have requested that the markings outside school are repainted to try and remind drivers that they should not be stopping outside school and I am awaiting their response.

I would like to suggest some kind of outdoor covered reading area / bookcase outside on the playground.

Our reading lead Mrs Colothan has some excellent ideas for this! Watch this space.

It would be really nice if we could come into school for assemblies/ performances. (Covid has obviously stopped some lovely activities taking place).

We agree! Thankfully it feels like we are starting to be able to return to welcoming parents and carers back into school. It was lovely to be able to hold Sports Day with parent spectators this year and the Year 6 children will be performing their end of year show to a real life audience! We also have our Open Classrooms after school on Thursday 14th July. Next year, providing things continue as they are, we should be able to hold our usual Harvest and Christmas performances- we can't wait!

There was slightly better communication.

Whilst many parents mentioned the quality of the communication as a strength in our survey, we recognise that there is always room for improvement and this is something we will keep under review.

It had a forest school or outdoor classroom.

There were more outdoor practical lessons, forest school is missed coming from Town Lane where this was really enjoyed.

We know that we are very lucky to have such a large school field but that sadly it is underutilised at the moment. However, we have allocated funding to create an outdoor classroom on the field and we also have a number of member so staff who are undertaking Natural Curriculum training with LMJU so that we can make greater use of the outdoors across the curriculum. Watch this space!



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It doesn't appear any 11 plus tuition is going to be part of the curriculum? It would be good if there could be an option for this.

The selective grammar school tests (11+) are optional tests for parents and carers who wish their children to attend the grammar school. They are not part of the statutory National Curriculum for England that the school has to teach and therefore we are unable to offer any tuition for these tests. The guidance from the LA to schools is clear that we should not be offering 11+ tuition.

An extra one or two updates regarding your child's progress in between parents evenings, a quick phone call/email.

We absolutely agree that parents and carers should be well informed about what your child is learning and the progress they are making. This is key so that home and school can work together to support your child. We are looking at a way of providing a quick academic snapshot each term, following our assessments which would provide you with further information. This was something we looked at last year but Covid disruptions have hampered our progress with this. Please remember that you have any concerns or issues regarding your child- either academically or other wider issues- please do not hesitate to contact us.

In time, when Covid restrictions drop more so, if parents could be more involved.

Yes we agree! We have been very lucky over the years to be well supported by our parents and carers through the PTA and also parent helpers who offer their time to read with children etc. This year, we had hoped to get things back to some normality but the dramatic rise in cases in the Spring term meant that once again this had to be paused. We remain hopeful that in September, we will be able to resume our usual activities and would be very grateful for your support with these.

More fun activities on the playground for example different sections for dodgeball, football, tennis and cricket and swimming for every year group.

We are continually looking for ways to improve the activities on the playground at break times and lunchtimes. We have invested in lots of equipment- both larger fixed equipment such as the Activ Board and other smaller equipment such as skipping ropes, beanbags etc. At lunchtimes we have Play Leaders to help organise the games and activities for the children. We are currently investigating other initiatives and activities help improve this further for September.

The children had more field trips/residential.

We know that this is something the children have missed out on over the last two years. This year we feel lucky to have been able to run both the Year 4 and Year 6 residential as usual. Year groups have also been able to book their usual trips and visits which have included the Stockport Air Raid Shelters, visits to Liverpool and various places of worship such as Christ Church in Bebington, a



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Liverpool Synagogue and a local Mosque. We have also been able to visit local high schools for workshops and had many visitors into school including the Young Shakespeare Company, Now Press Play and specialists to run Roman and Invaders days for the children. Some visits have been unable to go ahead due to issues with the providers e.g. the Year 3 Roman trip but we are hoping they will be fully open next year.

