



Higher Bebington Junior School

Mill Road, Higher Bebington, Wirral, CH63 8QE.
E-mail: schooloffice@higherbebington.wirral.sch.uk

Tel/Fax: 0151 608 1011
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Headteacher: Mrs S. Calveley B.Ed.(Hons)

Does the school make sure my child is well behaved?	96%	0%	4%	
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	10%	2%	3%	85%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	90.5%	0.5%	9%	

Response

Again, we are pleased that the overwhelming 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 encourage parents to contact us so that we can discuss this further.

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	90%	3%	7%	
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	96%	0%	4%	
The school has high expectations for my child	90%	2%	8%	
My child does well at this school	96%	1%	3%	
The school lets me know how my child is doing	94%	1%	5%	
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	96%	0%	4%	
The school supports my child's wider personal development	94%	1%	5%	

Response

We recognise that the many restrictions in place this year have made it difficult for us to communicate and meet with parents in the way that we would usually like to. We know that you have not been able to come in and see your child's work and the range of subjects and opportunities available to them. We are also aware that many of our Year 3 parents have not even been able to see inside the school!

As a result, this may mean that you do not feel as well informed as we would like you to be about what your child will be learning, our expectations for them and their progress towards these expectations. This is something we are aiming to improve in the coming months- beginning with our recent video parent/teacher meetings.





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Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	13% 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	82%	2%	5%	11%
I would recommend this school to another parent	Yes 99.3%		No 0.7%	
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

- They make my child feel comfortable.
- Any concerns are always taken seriously, I feel my child is genuinely cared for.
- The attention to looking after the whole child, not just the academic ability.
- Each child is treated as an individual with different needs.
- There is a great standard of education at HBJS. Children are nurtured to achieve and adopt a growth mind-set attitude.
- The school look after the mental health of the children and have been fabulous throughout the pandemic.
- The little things like sending postcards out to the children was so thoughtful and made them feel special.
- The school teaches the children about all aspects of life and spend time learning about important issues like mental health and well-being.
- My child feeling safe.
- The rewards that are given really work to build up the children's confidence.
- The school look after the mental health of the children and have been fabulous throughout the pandemic.
- The school is concerned about the children's well-being and recognising achievements.
- The postcards and merit awards are highly valued by my children and provide encouragement and motivation to do their best.
- There are lots of things in place to discourage bullying and seclusion.

Communication

- The communication is excellent.
- They keep parents up to date with all information and make sure the children are happy and any concerns they will contact us-that is really helpful.
- There is good communication and responses are quick and personal.
- Communication is also brilliant, especially during the recent lockdown.
- The transparency and strong communication.





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Lockdown/School Closure

- The communications during lockdown have been brilliant, reassuring, supportive and caring.
- The support during the lockdown has been exemplary and the teachers have worked so hard throughout.
- The school has been very welcoming despite the difficulties we have faced during Covid-19.
- Given this current pandemic situation we would like it to be known of the fantastic support and understanding from HBJS staff.
- The way they kept the children safe and learning in very difficult times during the pandemic.
- Supportive staff who really take the time to get to know your child and such a huge thank you to whole school team who have dealt with this last year in the most amazing way.
- During lockdown the work covered a range of topics that have been presented in an exciting way.
- Just how compassionate and understanding the teaching staff are and how professional they are in dealing with all the sudden changes this last year has brought.
- They have gone above and beyond during the pandemic to maintain our children's motivation whilst also ensuring that curriculum is considered.
- The school has been committed to supporting the children both with their educational and emotional needs throughout the pandemic.
- Lots of support and encouragement from school and child's teacher during COVID made a positive impact on motivation and wellbeing.

Staff

- I like how caring staff are and that it's a small enough school that your child isn't forgotten.
- I like that things are dealt with swiftly.
- Kind, caring and dedicated staff.
- The staff genuinely care about my child and her development.
- Teachers are very approachable.
- I like the fact that the teachers are passionate with their work and take so much interest in making sure the pupils feel comfortable with learning.
- Dedication and commitment from the staff has been fantastic.
- Very committed teaching staff who want the best for the children.
- The teachers and staff are superb, always friendly and available to help.
- Good communication overall and from the Head who shows she cares about the children.
- Headteacher is very approachable and understands the current needs of children.

Curriculum

- Exciting and engaging curriculum.
- Varied and engaging curriculum.
- The structure and organisation of the curriculum. The high expectations.
- Themed approach and links are well thought out and are very tight.
- Level of Reading and Writing provides challenge thereby motivating children. Quality texts used as vehicles to drive the curriculum.





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School Values and Ethos

- A lovely friendly environment.
- Strong values.
- It is a lovely friendly atmosphere.
- Feels like a homely community.
- It feels like there is a really supportive and nurturing ethos to the school.
- Community spirit.
- I love that the school promotes a feeling of community that my child fully enjoys being a part of.

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

- A bit more feedback about how they are academically doing.
- More feedback on how children are doing and how to help them at home would be helpful.
- There have not been many updates for parents during lockdown with the usual parent's evenings cancelled.
- Parents had trackers of what is taught during the year map as with Covid restrictions, we are lost on what our child should be learning.

We absolutely agree that parents and carers should be well informed about what your child is learning and the progress they are making.

Each term you are sent the curriculum maps for that term, which gives an overview of the subjects to be taught in the term. These were not sent in the spring term due to the school closure but you should have now received the summer term maps. On our school website, you can also find more detailed progression maps for each year group and subject.

We hold two Parents Evenings per year (usually October/November and March/April). These have been slightly different this year- held by phone in October and video call in April. You will also receive their annual report in July. However, we are also looking at a way of providing a quick academic snapshot each term, following our assessments which would provide you with further information. 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.

- There were more after school activities such as football.
- Extracurricular/clubs opportunities will be able to commence again soon.
- More after school activities, more school trips.

At HBJS we have always been proud of the wide range of clubs, activities and trips that we have been able to offer the children. We know how important these are for the children. Sadly, Covid-19 restrictions over the last year have made these almost impossible to run without mixing the 'bubbles' that the children have been placed in (e.g. if we mixed three classes for an after school club, we could potentially have to isolate 90 children instead of 30 if there was a positive case reported). However, we are hopeful that as restrictions begin to lift we will be able to gradually resume these again.





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- There was a larger play area, with Covid restrictions and bubbles the children have to take turns using the play area, they could do with more space. This is something for the government to consider, not something the staff would be able to do.
- More active playground activities for pupils at lunchtimes and breaks
- They could use the field more for sports and recreation time.
- Are there opportunities for more regular forest school type activities/ ethos apart from visits and visitors?

We recognise that the bubble restriction placed on the children has very much limited the playground space. However, this has been necessary in order to keep minimise the risk to the children and staff. Staff have tried to offer opportunities to use more of the outside space during the 'Daily Mile' and 'Recognition Time' when classes can have more space as no other classes are using the playground.

When the children returned in March, we invested in a large amount of our equipment for each class which was very well received by the children. Usually we would have our older children trained as Playground Leaders to run games and activities on both playground but this has not been possible due to Covid restrictions. However, we have employed a member of staff from Full of Beans every lunchtime to lead Active Playground on the Year 3/4 playground. We hope to resume the Playground Leader roles in September.

We are very lucky to have such a large school field. Sadly in the winter months, it is not able to be used regularly as it is often waterlogged! However, now that the weather is becoming drier, the children will be able to use it more- both during lessons and at lunch/break/recognition times.

- Pupils are encouraged to read more books, that is, if possible to borrow books from the school library over the weekends and award them with points for each completed read.

Reading has a high profile within the classrooms at HBJs and children are encouraged to read regularly. Like many things, borrowing from the main school library has become more difficult due to Covid but teachers have developed their class libraries more as a result. However, as restrictions begin to lift we look forward to being able to open the library more fully again and resume activities such as the reading passport, the reading trolley (for lunchtimes) and having our Reading Representatives being able to work together again.

- Videos of their own teachers. It might be worth talking to the students about it in case we ever end up in that situation again. Ask them what worked and what didn't for them.
- If another lockdown were to happen, we'd like to have more on-line lessons with teachers please.

Overall, we were pleased with the remote learning that HBJs offered however we also recognise that there are always improvements that can be made and things that we can learn from it. We will be seeking to survey the children to gain their feedback and ideas so that we can continue to improve should we ever be in the same situation again (whilst very much hoping that we won't be!)



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- The traffic situation
- It had traffic management at the end of the day.

As you will know from my newsletters, the traffic situation outside school is a serious concern. I have been in regular contact with the council, as have some parents, but as of yet they have been unable to offer much help. 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. There is no funding provided for a School Crossing Patrol person. Mrs Whittaker is due to start working with our Pupil Parliament regarding the development of a Parking Pledge, to raise the profile of the issue. However, in the meantime, I must continue to ask parents to be considerate when parking and to park away from school whenever possible to ease congestion right outside school and make it safer for the children.

- More balance around the level of homework children bring home. There is significant demand for extra work at home that feels too much for their age group.
- They had a better method for spelling tests and reading.
- The homework was more meaningful and only given when needed.

We regularly review the quality and quantity of the homework. This can be a difficult issue as some parents (and children) would like more and some much less! As we move back into 'normal' school life we will review the homework and make changes where needed.

- Communication sometimes appears to be rushed and doesn't provide clarity. Perhaps review with parents in mind.

Whilst many parents mentioned the quality of the communication as a strength in our survey, we recognise that on occasion some letters or messages have led to confusion or further clarification being needed. A parent also mentioned making better use of the digital tools available to us and again this is something we will try to improve so that items are easier for you to read and complete in Parent Mail.

- Continue dressing at home for PE days, saves on lost property items and I'm sure it means the children get more PE time.
- In the future, parents evenings carried out as per in lockdown. I found this to be a far more convenient and informative way to hear of the progress of my girls and was still able to ask any relevant questions necessary and all in the desired time frame.

Whilst there are lots of things we can't wait to get rid of when restrictions are lifted, there are some new ways of working which we will have to give more thought to. Coming to school in PE kits has definitely maximised PE time and led to less lost property! Parents Evenings are another aspect to consider but we have missed having the opportunity to meet parent face to face and for parents to see inside school, their child's work etc. We will review these- and other aspects- before the start of the new academic year in September.



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- There was possibly an increase in level of challenge/excitement in Maths and sometimes Science to improve motivation.

The schemes of work for both Maths and Science are designed to offer challenge to all pupils. However, if you feel that they are not challenging you child enough, please have a conversation with their class teacher.

- The school gates were not so narrow.

We know that this is an issue that comes up regularly. We have had various visits from the Local Authority 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.

- The lunch choice was more varied.

Sadly, the choice of lunches that we have been able to offer this year have been limited due to restrictions on using the school hall. We are hopeful that this will be vastly improved as restrictions begin to ease.

