

BARKISLAND C.E. (V.A.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Where every child matters

Working with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales and the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale

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GLEDHILL



HORTON



AKROYD

4th December 2014

TRANSITION / SETTLING IN SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all the families who returned their settling in surveys, your views and opinions are extremely important to us so that we can constantly evaluate and enhance our provision and procedures in school.

80% of our Reception families returned their surveys, which is a very good response.

The results have been collated below. As part of our continual school development process, a focus for this academic year was to re-evaluate our transition programme for our new intake. The information we have gathered from this survey will help us to carefully plan transition for our future Reception pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Becky Schofield

Headteacher



TRANSITION / SETTLING IN SURVEY 2014/2015

Please tick the box which best describes your feelings. We welcome additional comments in the box following each question.

1. Why did you choose Barkisland CE VA Primary School as a choice for your child?
Please tick all that apply.

Locality	21%	Church of England School	10%
Sibling	6%	Recommendation	7%
Smaller Class Sizes	9%	Single Age Classes	11%
Reputation	19%	Performance Tables / Results	11%
Other (please state) Facilities / Hall / Separate Dining room = 4% Home cooked food = 1%			

2. The communication that we received from the school once a place had been confirmed gave us enough information about the transition process.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
80%	20%			

Additional comments:

It is pleasing to see that 100% of parents felt that they received enough information. There were many supportive comments which supported this rating.

One area for development was for the school to make visits to pre-school settings. This is an aspect which we are hoping to include in the future.

3. The Information Evening (held in June) gave us enough information about school life and starting school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
65%	20%		5%		10%

Additional comments:

Most families agreed that the information evening was useful, gave parents a chance to meet staff, see the classroom and buy uniform. The informal manner in which it was delivered was also found to help build relationships.

It was suggested that more information around reading is given at this evening. We do hold a separate information session focussing solely on reading usually in November.



4. Taster Lunch gave me and my child an insight into school meals and lunchtimes at school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
65%	10%				25%

Additional comments:

Again, parents found this aspect of the transition process beneficial for the children and a good opportunity to experience lunchtime in school. The quality of the school meals was also highlighted positively.

Some families were unable to attend on the given date. We may look into an alternative date in the future

5. The initial classroom taster session helped my child become familiar with their classroom and teacher.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
75%	20%				5%

Additional comments:

Parents felt that this taster session supported the transition well. Comments included: children enjoyed it, took the fear/ unknown away, children were keen to start school.

Some parents felt that it was too far away from September and would have liked more than 1 session. The reason this session occurs when it does is due to Secondary School transition. Our Year 6 pupils visit their next schools and all of our classes visit their next class, which then frees up our Reception class to welcome out new pupils. It would be difficult to arrange an alternative date due to not having sufficient space in the school to accommodate extra children.

6. My child has benefitted from the Year 6 Buddy System.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
80%	10%	5%	5%	

Additional comments:

Most feedback received was very positive regarding the Buddy System. Parents felt that the letter was a lovely introduction, that they had their very first school friend from the very beginning, supported the children to settle in and that their children have loved spending time with their special friend. The buddies will have opportunities to meet watch other over the course of the year.

A parent commented that it slightly distressed their child and another had not received any feedback from their child regarding their buddy.



7. I feel that I had enough information to support my child when starting school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
55%	45%		5%	

Additional comments:

Parents agreed that they were equipped with enough information to support their child. Tips that were given at the Information evening were taken on board and the office staff have been identified to give parents any information that was needed.

One suggestion was to give parents more information on how that can support learning through play at home. We will take this suggestion on board.

8. The part time sessions in September enabled my child to settle well into school routines.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
20%	45%	10%	20%	5%

Additional comments:

This section was the most split section across the survey. Positive comments included: gave children time to settle in a smaller group, staff were able to get to know my child well and allowed children to settle in school better.

Some parents felt that the part-time sessions were spread over too long a time, were confusing for children and that the afternoon session was too short. It was also noted that it was difficult to arrange child care during this time.

This aspect of transition is always the area which causes the most debate. As a school, our primary concern is the smooth transition of all of our pupils. We feel at this stage that continuing with a part time start is in the best interests of all our pupils. It allows our staff to be able to spend more time with the children to find out about their interests. This feeds into the planning the learning opportunities for the children. We appreciate that many children have had experience in another setting, but moving from a nursery/pre-school setting being the oldest / biggest children there, to being the youngest / smallest children in a much large setting can be unnerving. We appreciate that this can cause difficulties for childcare arrangements but we give as much notice as possible to try and reduce this.



9. I feel that the Reception staff know my child well.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
50%	40%	10%		
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>The positive responses to this question will stem from the time that staff had with the children in the part time sessions. Comments included: staff are lovely, staff interact well with the children and parents and we couldn't ask for more.</p> <p>There was a suggestion of a slightly earlier parents evening.</p>				

10. I have found it easy to approach school staff with any concerns

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
50%	30%	5%	5%		10%
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>It is pleasing to see that the majority of families have (or would) find it easy to approach staff in school regarding any concerns. It is important that any concerns are shared with us so that we can address the concerns or alleviate them.</p> <p>The Reception staff and office staff were particularly highlighted as being very helpful and approachable.</p>					

11. My concerns have been dealt with appropriately and effectively.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
45%	20%	5%		5%	25%
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>Again, positive scores from this section. It is also worth noting that 25% of parents have not had any concerns.</p>					



12. My child enjoys coming to school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
65%	25%	10%		
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>Most comments mentioned that their child enjoys school, is eager to attend and has settled well. Children also enjoy attending Kids Club.</p>				

13. My child feels safe in school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
60%	35%	5%		
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>Again, positive result. Comments included that children are very happy, feel safe and parents have no concerns.</p>				

14. My child has made friends at school.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
55%	40%	5%		
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>It is great to see that almost all parents can state that their child has made friends at school. Some commented that they have lots of friends and even friend in other classes. The social BSA events were praised too.</p>				



15. The school is a welcoming place.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
80%	15%	5%		
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>A strong positive response. Welcoming and happy staff were mentioned; the welcoming environment was also noted.</p>				

16. The new starters Church Service made me and my child feel part of the whole school community.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
60%	30%	10%		
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>Another positive aspect of transition. Parents felt that the service was lovely (although it may have been a little too long!), that children are enjoying their bible and that it was a great way to mark the start of the children's school life.</p>				

17. Overall, starting school has been a positive experience for my child.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
70%	20%	5%	5%	
<p>Additional comments:</p> <p>As you can see from the results, the vast majority of families agreed with this statement. Comments included: Lovely staff, excellent organisation, children are eager to share their experiences and have grown in confidence.</p> <p>One comment suggested that school provided little support for transition.</p>				



18. What aspects of transition worked particularly well for your child?

All brilliant!
Taster Lunch
Buddy
Part time sessions
Taster session

19. Are there any areas in which you feel we can improve on?

Reduce the part time sessions

(please refer back to Q8)

Reading book earlier

We give reading books out after half term so that we can embed key phonics skills and ensure that a book is given at the appropriate level for each child. More information around this was given at the information evening in November.

Buddy System till Christmas

The children still have contact with their buddy after the part time sessions and they are used if needed to support playtimes etc if needed for individual children.

Parking

This is an aspect of school life that we are continually reminding parents about and trying to eradicate by posters, signs and letters to offenders. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that that park their car safely and it is very difficult to enforce this through school alone.

YR Entrance too busy

Any cloakroom area in school is busy during the morning and at the end of the school day. Mrs McIntosh will be writing to Reception parents soon with arrangements to reduce this after Christmas.

Thank you all for your responses!

