



# Brighstone C.E. Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

New Road – Brighstone – Isle of Wight – PO30 4BB – Telephone (01983) 740285

[www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk](http://www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk)

Charity Number: 307389

E-mail: [office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk)

## Parent Survey July 2022 - Results

Dear parents and carers,

We would like to thank those of you who contributed your feedback in our parent survey at the end of the last academic year. At Brighstone, we feel it is important to gather parent views, because we believe in the importance of working together to be the best school we can be for your child. We were delighted to see so many positive comments, and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the team at Brighstone, and to you, for your continued support.

The results from the questions are below, along with responses to your queries and concerns, which I hope reassures you and provides answers to any questions you may have. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

(1 person = 4.34%)

### 1. The school curriculum engages my child in learning.

95.65% of you agree or strongly agree.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		30.43%	7
2	Agree		65.22%	15
3	Disagree		4.35%	1
4	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

Some of your feedback:

- My child is able to talk about what she is learning with enthusiasm.
- I hear lots about what the children have been learning in classes and my children talk enthusiastically about new things they have done and have discovered at school, particularly science experiments, PE and outdoor learning.
- My children especially like the topic work. I think it always helps to apply the theory.
- It feels that the school is offering an improving, well rounded and thoughtfully delivered curriculum.

Our response:

While we follow the National Curriculum, we also work hard to ensure that the learning journeys planned for each subject are engaging for the children, and meet their interests and needs wherever possible. We strive to use the local area as much as possible, making their learning relevant and helping to build their knowledge and understanding of where they live. We also recognise the importance of learning about the wider world, especially because we live on such a small island.

### 2. The school helps my child develop the skills to succeed in the next step of their learning journey.

95.65% of you agree or strongly agree.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		30.43%	7
2	Agree		65.22%	15
3	Disagree		4.35%	1
4	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

## 2. The school helps my child develop the skills to succeed in the next step of their learning journey.

95.65% of you agree or strongly agree.

Some of your feedback:



- My child's confidence has grown this year.
- We like that our child is challenged with extension sheets if they have completed work given.

Our response:

Each area of learning is progressive and builds on previous knowledge, skills and understanding to ensure that the 'building blocks' of learning are in place. We work hard to identify and close any gaps that the children may have. Sometimes further support or interventions are needed to help close these gaps, or to provide further challenge. If, at times, parents do not feel that their child is developing the skills that they need, please do not hesitate to contact the school where we will talk it through with you and address any concerns that you may have.

## 3. My child experiences a wide variety of learning opportunities, including in and out of class, sporting activities and trips/visitors.

100% of you agree or strongly agree.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		21.74%	5
2	Agree		78.26%	18
3	Disagree		0.00%	0
4	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

Some of your feedback:



- Maybe more trips.
- My daughter especially enjoyed the Year 4 residential to Kingswood. She is very lucky to have such amazing staff and the support from the BSA.
- My daughter has also really enjoyed the after school clubs, especially the cooking and art.
- The sporting opportunities the children are given are brilliant.
- The children have an amazing amount of learning opportunities in the classroom and at other times. They are always enthusiastic when there has been an external visitor in the classroom (e.g. sight for wight) or if they have been learning outside. We particularly welcome the time taken to keep the arts a significant part of their learning. Music, drama and art are important to our family and we believe these subjects must play a big part in the curriculum as they benefit children so much in other areas of learning.
- We have been really impressed with the extra-curricular opportunities the children have been offered at Brighstone, particularly sports. We really appreciate all the effort Mr Goldsmith and other staff put into ensuring the children have ample opportunities to take part in sports fixtures and external sports events away from the school.
- The sporting fixtures are great - please keep this up.
- We always hear lots at home when a visitor is invited to speak.
- I would like to see more school trips and outdoor learning, especially because we live in such a great place!

Our response:

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, and aim to link the subjects wherever possible, to help the children to make links within their learning. After Covid restrictions were lifted, we were delighted to be able to reintroduce a broad range of experiences, including trips, events and visitors, linked to the children's learning. We are very proud of our sporting offers (thank you, Mr Goldsmith!) and all these above experiences help to introduce the children to new learning or consolidate learning in new and exciting ways.


## 4. My child has made progress this year, including academically and pastorally (e.g. spelling, handwriting, reading, phonics, Maths, group work, independence, following instructions, turn-taking etc...).

95.65% of you agree or strongly agree.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		39.13%	9
2	Agree		56.52%	13
3	Disagree		0.00%	0

**4. My child has made progress this year, including academically and pastorally (e.g. spelling, handwriting, reading, phonics, Maths, group work, independence, following instructions, turn-taking etc...).**

**95.65% of you agree or strongly agree.**

4	Strongly disagree		4.35%	1
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

Some of your feedback:




- Both my children have definitely made progress this year. The first full academic year since 2018/2019!
- I have been so impressed with the progress of both our children. Both children have become noticeably more independent and confident over the year.
- The school have been very supportive in picking up areas of difficulty and suggesting SENCo support.
- 100%
- Handwriting is a concern although I believe this is a focus and is generally found lacking in many schools due to the last 2 years.

Our response:

We appreciate your feedback, as we are working hard to ensure that every child makes progress at their own level. This remains an ongoing focus for us, and we will continue to work closely with you to enable this to happen. Handwriting has been identified as a particular area of focus, as well as the learning and recall of number facts and times tables, and we are continuing to work on these areas. We offer the opportunity to talk about your child's progress during our parent consultation meetings three times a year, and if you have any concerns about your child's progress at any other times throughout the year, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

**5. My child enjoys coming to school and has a positive attitude to learning.**

**95.65% of you agree or strongly agree.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		39.13%	9
2	Agree		56.52%	13
3	Disagree		4.35%	1
4	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

Some of your feedback:





- My children skip into school every day!
- My child loves going to school and always goes in with a smile on his face. He loves the after school clubs and all the teachers. Thank you.
- Strongly agree for all my children, which is some achievement!
- Especially the practical learning.

Our response:

We are so pleased that your children enjoy coming to school. It is lovely to see all the enthusiastic smiling faces every morning as they come (running and skipping) into school; it certainly makes us feel happy each day! Please let us know about any concerns you have if your child is feeling unhappy so we can address any issues.

**6. The school has a positive, respectful culture in which my child feels safe and well cared for.**

**91.3% of you agree or strongly agree.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		52.17%	12
2	Agree		39.13%	9
3	Disagree		4.35%	1
4	Strongly disagree		4.35%	1
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

**6. The school has a positive, respectful culture in which my child feels safe and well cared for.**

**91.3% of you agree or strongly agree.**

Some of your feedback:


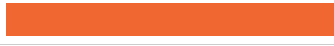
- I think this is what the school excels at.
- This has noticeably improved over the last couple of years.

Our response:

Thank you for your positive feedback. We work hard to ensure that our core values of Love, Courage and Respect are embedded in everything we do, while also ensuring that our strong expectations around behaviour are upheld.

**7. The school helps my child to develop good learning behaviours, including independence, resilience, collaboration and perseverance.**

**100% of you agree or strongly agree.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		47.83%	11
2	Agree		52.17%	12
3	Disagree		0.00%	0
4	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

Some of your feedback:





- It is clear that a lot of effort is put into helping children to be resilient, which I know is something that our children need help with at times. I thought that making this the theme of the Hive day was a fabulous idea and the children definitely got a lot out of it.
- Any problems have been sensitively, swiftly and professionally dealt with. I think the ELSA role has helped so much.
- Like the days that have been introduced concentrating on wellbeing. They are so important to reinforce to children that mental health is important and not to be ashamed of looking after it.

Our response:

We have had a big focus on developing good learning behaviours and supporting wellbeing, both of which have been especially important following the last two years of disrupted schooling. They continue to be a focus, and we appreciate your support in this, especially with helping your child/ren to develop their independence and resilience. We will publish tips and ideas in the Buzz and on Facebook to help!

**8. My child receives support and challenge appropriate to their needs.**

**82.61% of you agree or strongly agree.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		34.78%	8
2	Agree		47.83%	11
3	Disagree		13.04%	3
4	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
5	Don't know		4.35%	1

Some of your feedback:




- I feel that there should be more extension activities for those students who have finished their work and extension activity on offer. They should not be supporting other children with their learning; this is the role of an LSA.
- Some greater focus on stretching in subjects where he's finding it easier would be great.

Our response:

Thank you for your feedback. Our vision statement states that we aim to provide a nurturing environment where every child can thrive according to their needs. This has been, and continues to be, a focus for us. We access training and are working closely with advisors from the Local Authority to ensure that we provide support and challenge for all children at a level that is appropriate for them, while also ensuring that the National Curriculum objectives are met.

**9. The school's core values of Love, Courage and Respect help to develop my child's pastoral and learning needs.**

**91.31% of you agree or strongly agree.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		47.83%	11
2	Agree		43.48%	10
3	Disagree		8.70%	2
4	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

Some of your feedback:





- We use the school values at home too.
- I think these values are really encouraged. It is always a joy to hear these being celebrated in the golden assemblies.
- Again 100%
- Love it when he holds me to account for the values and celebrates when he does something worthy of them: well embedded in his mind and he really gets what they mean and ask of him.

Our response:

Thank you for your positive feedback. We are always highlighting our core values, which are embedded in everything we do and say with the children, both in Collective Worship, Golden Worship, lessons, behaviour strategies and within our pastoral care.

**10. The school responds well to any concerns I raise.**

**Where applicable, 90.47% of you agree or strongly agree.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		30.43%	7
2	Agree		52.17%	12
3	Disagree		13.04%	3
4	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
5	Not applicable		8.70%	2

Some of your feedback:



- Excellent email response from class teacher when required.
- Mrs Jones has been wonderful in responding to concerns raised about the social wellbeing of our older child.
- My child's teacher has been excellent in her communication with us and dealt effectively and sensitively with any issues that have come up. My child has very much enjoyed being in that class. Thank you.
- The school responds to pastoral care really well.

Our response:

Thank you for your comments. We believe that we are approachable so, if you have any concerns or queries, you can raise them with the class teacher, Mrs Jones, Mrs Pelosi or myself (Mrs Lennon) who we hope will be able to resolve them. However, if you feel that your concern hasn't been addressed sufficiently, then there is a clear procedure to follow for concerns and complaints, which is laid out in our Complaints Policy. In the first instance, the aim is to always try to resolve it at the initial stage.

**11. The school is well-led and managed.**

**86.96% of you agree or strongly agree.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		43.48%	10
2	Agree		43.48%	10

### 11. The school is well-led and managed.

86.96% of you agree or strongly agree.

3	Disagree		4.35%	1
4	Strongly disagree		8.70%	2
5	Don't know		0.00%	0

Some of your feedback:

- We really welcome how Mrs Lennon takes time to know each individual child in the school. I believe this is an important part of school leadership.
- Communication with parents is very good and welcome.
- All of the staff appear dedicated and engaged. There is a real team feel.

Our response:

Thank you for your positive feedback. Our leadership team consists of different levels: our Senior Leadership Team, which includes me (Mrs Lennon), Mrs Jones and Mrs Boyd; our governing body; and our middle leaders (who take on subject responsibilities). We all work hard as a team, and are proud of the way that we know each individual child in the school, as this helps to embed our vision.

If you have any concerns or queries about how the school is led and managed, please do not hesitate to contact the school or the governing body.

### 12. What do you feel are the school's greatest strengths? What should we celebrate?

The caring and community spirit is absolutely second to none. This is a beautiful school.	It is a happy school where my children are happy.
The school is a perfect example of how a small rural school in the heart of a tight knit community should be. Children feel happy and comfortable in the setting and its size and smaller class sizes enable each child to be nurtured and celebrated as an individual.	The school has a wonderful environmental ethos and the children clearly have a passion for the environment and protecting the environment for the future.
The children all seem very happy and supportive of each other.	Communication is getting much better. Staff are approachable.
Being the heart of the village.	It is a very positive and enthusiastic place, with wonderfully friendly staff, who celebrate every child's achievements.
Its sense of community and relationship with students and their families.	Good sense of community; children very supportive of one of other.
There is a genuine love and care for all of the children and this is always apparent when visiting the school.	Supportive and caring environment.
Proactive approach to dealing with issues.	The inclusion of all children, members of staff are approachable and friendly and really encourage children to reach their full potential.
The relationships you have built with the children; they are happy and comfortable and respectful to one another. Sports day was a great example of this, the children behaved beautifully, they knew when they could have fun and when to listen. They cheered one another on, but were still competitive. It was brilliantly organised. A real community feeling. Brighstone at its best.	The size, whilst obviously challenging, is also its asset. All the children know each other and there are friendships between year groups. This shone through in sports day when several children clearly showed fabulous friendship/sportsmanship in helping other students who were struggling for various reasons. It was a wonderful representation of the school.
There are clearly strong values that the staff role model to the children. The pupils show so much respect and positivity towards one another that transcends year groups.	Top to bottom the school seems well led, governed and organised.
You care about the children and they care about one another, there were two examples on Sports Day, when a boy stopped running to help up another boy who had tripped over and when a Year 6 girl helped a friend to finish a race and everyone cheered her on. It was lovely to witness.	

**Our response:**

Thank you for such positive comments! We are delighted to know that you and your children value Brighstone Primary so much, and we look forward to continuing to work closely together to make our school even better.

### 13. What do you feel are the most important issues we should address in the next year to help us further improve?

Your comments	Our responses
Having more notice on key dates would be helpful. Not everything gets put on the calendar section in the buzz, they get lost in Mrs Lennon's top section. The Buzz is the school bible to everything I need to know.	We agree that sometimes, especially towards the end of the summer term, dates could have been given in a more timely manner. Occasionally, it is out of our hands when we have had to liaise with external providers and agencies, but we will endeavour to communicate this with you to give you advanced notice.
If possible more notice for events such as parents evenings, concerts etc	We introduced the calendar section in the Buzz to help with this, and this will be continued in this new academic year.

The only thing I can suggest is better communication with trips etc. A letter home or a text message with plenty of notice would be good. It felt like this term that had slipped a bit, and things were a bit in the air.	Certain dates, such as parents evenings and reports, will now be communicated at the start of the academic year, and dates for trips and other events will be also be given in plenty of time, wherever possible.
More activities on offer for students at break times. The NSPCC fun break time day was a huge success, please offer more of a wider range of activities that can be led by an adult to encourage cooperation and friendship. This will eliminate boredom, bullying and unwanted behaviour.	Thank you for this suggestion. A range of toys and play equipment is provided at lunchtimes, and we will now introduce this at play times.
More opportunities for parental involvement.	Thank you. Once Covid restrictions had been lifted, we started to reintroduce more opportunities for parental involvement last academic year, and we will continue to do so this year, including reading sessions, subject activity sessions and parent information sessions.
An emphasis on trips and sporting fixtures.	We are proud of, and have won awards for, our range of sporting fixtures organised by Mr Goldsmith. We aim for each class to experience a range of trips and visitors linked to their learning, and each year our Y4 and Y6 children go on a residential trip, either on the island or on the mainland.
I think the school should focus on letting the wider community know how wonderful it is, so that pupil numbers can be retained and the school can thrive!	Thank you. This has been a focus for us over the past year and will continue to be a focus. Pupil numbers across the island (and nationally) are lower this year, and for the next few years, and the Local Authority has an island-wide strategy for this. Many schools have had to, or are looking to, reduce their Published Admission Numbers (PAN), in a bid to remain open and viable.
I worry that the school may be at risk due to surplus places and LA funding. It is important to keep a succession going through pre school into YR, advertise the school as much as possible and have a strong governing body that can stand up to the authorities!	Following a period of consultation, we reduced ours to 15 from September 2021 due to lower pupil numbers in the area. This means that each year group will be capped at 15. While this leads to mixed classes across the school, it also helps the school to remain viable.
Increase awareness of the school and encourage more applications to increase school numbers. Each year more classes merge, there are concerns that if this continues the school's future could be at risk.	We are striving to do all we can to attract families to the school, including newspaper articles, banners and adverts, our active Facebook page, and word of mouth. We are very fortunate to have a popular independent preschool on our site, which feeds into our school, and our small, caring community, as well as our strong sporting opportunities, makes us an attractive school for many families.
The school should continue to work with the children in supporting their emotional wellbeing, through continuing to offer opportunities in the arts, sports and using the outdoor classroom for all areas of the curriculum.	Thank you. We have had a big focus on mental health and wellbeing, and we are continuing to do so this academic year, both through the wider opportunities we provide, as well as through dedicated wellbeing activities. Our SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) page has proved to be very popular and beneficial to many families.

14. Do you have any other comments?	
Thanks for another brilliant year: you're doing great work!	Thank you!
I was disappointed that there will not a standalone Year 6 class next year. I was hoping that 18 of them would have been enough and in previous years, this has been this case. My child would have really benefited from this. I find it frustrating that funding has probably made shared year groups happen again this year, making class sizes big.	Each school has a published number to admit (PAN) for the whole school. This number will have been agreed with the Local Authority. Brighstone Primary now has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 15, which is the maximum number of pupils that the admission authority will admit to each year group. Brighstone Primary went through the consultation process in 2019-20 to reduce our PAN, which came into force in September 2021. This was due to reduced pupil numbers in the local area and across the Isle of Wight. In the UK, the average primary class size has remained the same at 26.6 in 2022. Current national policy aims to keep primary class sizes for pupils at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to a maximum of 30 pupils. There is no limit on Key Stage 2 classes. Unfortunately, having a class of 18 is not financially viable. As our PAN is now 15, each year group will be in a mixed-aged class. Some lessons will be taught together, while some will be taught per year group, depending on the National Curriculum subjects and objectives (some cover two year groups, while some are separate). A range of organisational and other strategies will be utilised to ensure that the National Curriculum objectives are covered for each year group in the mixed classes. Research has shown that children in mixed-age classrooms have increased social and emotional understanding, engage in both collaborative and independent learning with greater ease, and have more positive peer interactions.

I think it would be useful to give information in the attendance letters about the unauthorised absences so parents know what they were for.	When parents apply for leave of absence, we complete the form and send it back to you providing the reasons why the leave of absence has or has not been authorised. Following your attendance letters, if you would like clarification about any of your unauthorised absences detailed in the letter, please contact the school. Following our previous Ofsted inspection, as well as a national drive on improving attendance, we are having a big focus on raising our attendance to ensure we meet expectations.
Thank you for a good year in difficult circumstances, attempting to get back to normal after the last two years with the ongoing challenges is no mean feat.	Thank you for your feedback. It has been fantastic that we have had some semblance of normality, despite a national rise in Covid cases.
Thank you to all the staff who work so hard to make the school so lovely, and for giving our children a perfect start to a positive and bright future. Also big thanks to the BSA who offer so much support to the school and really help the school community thrive.	Thank you for your feedback, which is very much appreciated. Thank you, also, to the BSA who work tirelessly to provide extra funding for the school and to reduce costs to parents, meaning that trips and residentials can go ahead. We have a great school community here in Brighstone!
Thank you to the Brighstone Primary School team for making my child's learning experience as wonderful as it is!	Thank you for your lovely feedback.
Please keep the class emails next year. They are a great way to communicate with the class teacher.	Thank you. We are continuing with the class emails as we also find it is a good means of communication. Information about the new email addresses is being sent out to parents and carers.
I love this school. Moving my child here was the best thing I could ever have done. The level of care and support that you have shown me and my child has been incredible. I won't ever truly be able to put into words how grateful I am.	Thank you. We really appreciate this feedback, which exemplifies our school vision!
I just want to add how fantastic Mrs Jones has been, you can just see how much she wants the very best for the children. I don't think we could possibly thank her enough for this past year and all the support she has shown us, so thank you.	Thank you for such positive feedback. In her many roles, Mrs Jones works hard to ensure that each child is supported and cared for according to their needs, in line with our school vision.
Congratulation to all the team. Have a great summer and thank you for everything you do.	Thank you!

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions that aren't addressed in this letter, then please do not hesitate to contact us. We are also looking for ways to further improve!

Once again, we would like to extend our thanks to you for giving up your time to fill out the parent survey and providing us with feedback. It is very much appreciated, and we look forward to continuing to work with you closely to enable us all to provide the best learning opportunities, both academically and pastorally, for the children at Brighstone.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lennon and the Brighstone Team