

Thank you to all of those who attended our showcase afternoon at the end of last term where you met members of our LAC and kindly filled out their Parental Questionnaire. These questionnaires play a key role in helping develop the school and so that our school community can see the impact that they have on our school too. Hopefully you have seen the impact of these before and will be able to see any areas we have aimed to address since your feedback from these surveys.

The questionnaire itself was full of wonderful comments, we thank you for those, some of which I will share at the end of this summary. You can view the complete summary on our website under the 'Parents' tab: [St Buryan Academy Primary School - Parental Survey feedback](#)

In this summary I have focussed on areas that parents may deem that would improve our school. The points that have their own box are comments from more than one survey response.

2. Additional amenity spaces or facilities St Buryan Academy would benefit most from.

Comment	Response and action
More variety of after-school clubs	We aim to offer a range of clubs to cater for our children's interests. Staff voluntarily give up their time to run clubs when they can. This term, across 7 staff members we are running 10 different clubs throughout the week where there are not clashes with other school events.
Summer clubs	The school are not in a position to offer summer clubs or provision, we do signpost to holiday activities though.
Music lessons	We are happy to offer music lessons again but these need to be viable for the providers. We recently sent out communications for this and can reassess this in the new year for interest.
Traffic calming outside of the school and access via the bottom gate	We have spoken to local councillor and parish about traffic control within the village. We do aim to re-open the bottom gate, we have shared reasons behind this previously, and are awaiting some maintenance work to ensure that it is safe.
Resume wrap-around care after school	As hopefully you are aware, this is something that we have been aiming to provide for some time. It does however depend on demand in order to make this viable for us to offer. We have sent out forms to our Rec-Y6 pupils, as well as our new intake, so please return these so we can be in the position to offer this facility once more.

Other comments:

All weather pitch, more space, covered waiting area

All of these suggestions would benefit the school, however, the financial cost to these do not make them viable currently.

More emphasis on academic activities

The school goes beyond the expectation of the National Curriculum. Whilst we are passionate about delivering and education that develops the whole child; however, in doing this we always ensure that our expected coverage is fulfilled; as you can see via our website. We aim to always share our 'academic' achievements, as well as those that develop our wider curriculum offer, through our website, social media pages, newsletters and our end of term showcases.

Develop more practical/life skills

This is something I am really passionate about in our school and something that I feel we do very well. We do this in a variety of ways, from day-to-day teaching; our 'Believe, Achieve, Aspire' days; having guests in to speak to our children, through our outdoor learning/forest school provision as well as the extra opportunities we offered in the



form of trips, residential experiences etc. We can always look to develop this aspect further, whilst ensuring we have the correct balance in fulfilling all the curriculum expectations.

Sports competitions for younger children

We can approach Penwith Sports organisers regarding organising more events for KS1, although more 'competitive' competitions do not tend to take place until KS2. We have though continued to develop our sports offering to children all through the school. We already swim more than most primary schools over the year. With Key Stage 1 specifically, we have broadened the opportunities given; as examples, they have worked with Penzance Gymnastics Club this year (nursery to Year 2), Chance 2 Shine Cricket, taken part in Multi-Skills festivals on top of the high quality physical education lessons we deliver in school.

More trips

The value of getting children out to enhance their learning is vital. Throughout the school, our children have been on several trips as well as their residential experiences – running overnight stays from Year 1 to Year 6 is an opportunity not many other schools offer. Being mindful of the costs these trips can bring to both the school and parents, we carefully select what is of most benefit to the children. Again, this is something that we can assess moving forward.

4. What can St Buryan Academy do to improve?

Comment	Response and action
<p>Communication: Preference of the weekly newsletter, more responsive to queries, too many platforms for communication</p>	<p>Communication is something that we strive to do to the best standard we can in order to ensure our school community are aware of everything that they need to know. Obviously, dates and events can change, and we do our utmost to let our community know of these as early as we possibly can. We have taken extra measures lately with our noticeboard and termly dates document to ensure everyone is well informed on what events are taken place and when.</p> <p>In regards to our newsletter, we found the majority of parents preferred a fortnightly newsletter, our engagement levels with this our higher now.</p> <p>We always aim to respond to any questions and queries as soon as we can; all staff have responsibilities and other roles throughout the day which may mean that on occasion they may reply the next day, or as early as they possibly can.</p> <p>Regarding the many platforms for communication, we know that not all parents will check emails or other means of communication, therefore, we aim to use a wider range to ensure that our messages are received.</p>
<p>Being told what is being taught each term</p>	<p>On the class pages of our website we share each class' termly learning as well as other information about what is going on. We are also sending these overviews out as hard copies at the beginning of each term too.</p> <p>Through our newsletters and social media pages we share our learning throughout the week as well. The showcases we have begun to hold at the end of each term give families an opportunity to see their child's termly learning too.</p>
<p>Taking on parents views and listening to parents</p>	<p>Our parents and families play a crucial role in our school and your comments, viewpoints and suggestions are always considered. As a school, we always strive to progress and gaining the thoughts of our parents and carers plays a valuable role in doing this. I would like to think that in some areas where our parents have made suggestions, we have acted upon. Obviously, we have to consider what is best and viable for the school from all aspects. Again, from this questionnaire, I hope</p>

	that you have seen how your views have been considered and acted on where appropriate.
More regular parent evenings	At St Buryan Academy, we try to promote a nurturing environment where everybody feels comfortable to talk to each other, especially between our parents and staff. This year we chose to stagger our parental meetings to points of the year where we feel they add the most value depending on the year group of the child. We believe in building strong, positive relationships with our families, and are always approachable if any parents wants to book a meeting to discuss their child's progress, attainment or general school life.
<p>Other comments:</p> <p>Wider curriculum I strongly believe that what our children access as part of the 'wider curriculum'; in terms of skills that aid their development outside of the National Curriculum, rivals any school; especially those schools of similar sizes. Myself and our staff are passionate about the whole school experience, and we aim to promote this throughout all we offer at St Buryan.</p> <p>More level standard of delivery of core curriculum subjects We deliver a strong, broad and balanced curriculum where all subjects are valued and ensures that our pupils have a well-rounded learning experience. As with all primary schools, English and Maths take precedence in the curriculum as they are considered the 'core' subjects and have the most areas of coverage. Key skills in these subjects also allow you to access more areas of other curriculum subjects and, as you may know, children are assessed in these areas through their SATs before leaving primary school. As we have shared with you, developing writing is one of our school priorities this year and we have focussed on strengthening this across the school in a variety of ways.</p> <p>Greater help with transition between primary and secondary school During our pupil surveys, our Year 5 and 6 children are always asked how they feel about their transition to secondary school, the information that they give and what else they want to know; these always come back positively but we understand that going from a school with the culture and size of our own can be quite overwhelming for some children. Most transition days occur later in the Summer Term, which is some time after this survey; we hope that you have found that the transition offered by our secondary schools has been appropriate this term. Outside of the designated transition days, we do try to build our collaboration with our local secondary schools and aim to work with them in a variety of ways so that our children have some familiar faces when they go to their next schools. We are also keen to work with Year6 parents – and children – who have concerns about their child transitioning to secondary school and are more than happy to support where we can. As an extra service this year, we are working in partnership with the county's Mental Health Support Team who are delivering a primary to secondary package for our Year 6 pupils this half term.</p> <p>"Doing the harder things rather than the nicer things" I am a big believer that the 'harder things' can still be 'nice things'. For me, in order to thrive and to achieve at these perceived 'harder things' children need to have the 'nicer things'. Children need to be engaged in school, their learning and the more challenging aspects of the curriculum; by providing a broad and balanced curriculum that fulfils the required expectations, as well as offers a strong wider-curriculum, we can ensure that our children are being suitably challenged in all subject areas as well as accessing all else that primary school life can offer in terms of experiences, opportunities and developing our children's characteristics and qualities.</p>	

5. Any other comments

-Sourcing local ingredients for school meals

The fact that we do our own on-site cooking and meals is something that we are passionate about. We can further explore using some more local ingredients, and do use our own from our garden at times. This has to be affordable for the school and therefore for parents too, we do aim to support local businesses with catering when we can.



-More notice for key school dates and put them on the website calendar

We are now using the calendar on the website for our key dates and have produced half-termly posters as an overview for the upcoming key dates; these are on our newsletters, social media pages and on our display board outside. We do aim to notify parents of any key dates as early as possible.

-Lengthy measures to be implemented around safety to/from school – especially in the summer months
I have mentioned the opening of the bottom gate previously, we are working towards reopening this and we thank our parents for their patience in this. We have worked with the local councillor around road safety in the area and hope to see progress in this soon.

-To ensure the children are equipped with the adequate knowledge to start secondary school, especially in maths and English

I feel that we do this incredibly well and often have positive feedback from local secondary schools. We also recognise that the importance of making sure that our children are 'secondary ready' in other curriculum areas; hence our recent investment in more technology and all of our Key Stage 2 children having their own one-to-one devices as well as high quality French lessons weekly throughout the school when there is only an expectation of this in Key Stage 2; to give two examples.

-The children's uniform policy should be much stricter and enforced at all times

Whilst we have tried to be considerate to potential change in circumstance in recent times which may have made accessing uniform challenging, we can now think forward and ensure that our approach is consistent. We will be sending out uniform reminders in preparation for next year soon.

We take your feedback seriously and use it to help inform new implementations and future planning for the school.

We want to thank you too for the positive feedback within the survey, which can be read here:

What are St Buryan Academy's best qualities?

13 of you mentioned our friendly, caring, environment

9 of you mentioned that our staff are friendly and approachable

8 of you mentioned that the size of the school and class sizes were beneficial

5 of you mentioned our Forest School and outdoor facilities

3 of you mentioned the headteacher, commitment to swimming, in-house catering and our inclusivity

2 of you mentioned our good communication, sense of community, clubs and school trips

Other responses included: Believe, Achieve, Aspire Days; children's behaviour; always striving to do better; our sporting opportunities

Any other comments:

-Our child is thoroughly enjoying this school – he is happy and making great progress

-Really happy with the school – my child enjoys coming

-Keep doing what you are doing!

-I'm pleased and it's great to see the ongoing improvement

-The newsletter is good

-We are pleased with the education our child has received here at St Buryan

-We are very pleased with the school. Thank you!

-My children have enjoyed their participation with extra-curricular activities and it was personally pleasing watching the represent the school in events

-Very happy with the school and how my children are thriving

-I cannot fault the school and I recommend it to everyone with children starting school