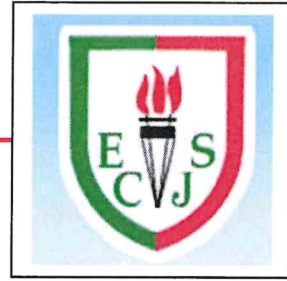


ESKDALE NEWSLETTER



Summer End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We come to the end of another busy Eskdale year! This time last year we were still on tenterhooks as we were expecting Ofsted at any moment. When the call didn't come, it came as no surprise when the phone finally rang in October. With this significant moment happening so early this school year, it is too easy to overlook this as the day to day business of school life takes over. It seems fitting then, as I reflect on the year, to reiterate how proud I am of both the staff and the children for achieving four *outstanding* judgments. This is still a highlight of the school year and a reminder of how much this school means to both me and our school community. Our end of key stage two SATs results were also a success, exceeding national values in Writing, Reading, Grammar and Maths. A fabulous achievement by our Y6 pupils and testament to the incredible amount of work that all staff have put into supporting the children. Away from academic achievement, school has continued to provide a wide range of opportunities across the year to enrich your children's experience and create long-lasting memories. This is only possible as a result of the incredible amount of hard work and commitment that all staff provide for our children-a huge thank you to all those adults in school who work with the children each day. Everyone is now ready for a well-deserved break to recharge the batteries in preparation for another exciting year in 2025/26. I also want to take the opportunity to thank all those parents/carers who continually support school-never underestimate how important it is to both ourselves and your children. Last but no means least, thank you to our wonderful children!

Have a safe and happy summer break, we will see you all back in school in September.

Staffing

Due to some health complications, Mrs Lee left Eskdale earlier than expected this term to go and begin her second maternity leave. She is looking forward to welcoming another baby girl into the world this September. All at Eskdale wish her all the best!

In other staffing news, parents/carers may recall from a communication earlier this term that we also have two other notable departures.

Firstly, Mrs Dorn has taken the decision to retire at the end of this school year. Parents/carers may be astonished to discover that Mrs Dorn has been at Eskdale for 36 years! It is a significant challenge putting into words a suitable tribute to such an incredible teacher, deputy head and unwavering servant to the school. Here goes...

Mrs Dorn began her career at Eskdale as a newly qualified teacher coming late into the profession after a number of years in the business world. As a class teacher, she soon carved a reputation as a highly effective practitioner, always seeking to innovate and consistently keeping the needs of all pupils at the forefront of everything that she did. She led singing and drama opportunities as well as masterminding countless nativity-themed performances for hundreds of Y3 pupils over the years.

Away from her class teacher responsibilities, she has had responsibility for a number of subjects but it is her leadership of English that stands out as the most notable. It is rare to find a subject leader with such a passion, drive for improvement and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Mrs Dorn has always skilfully led both Reading and Writing (a feat in itself), ensuring a strong Reading culture in the school, not to mention numerous outstanding outcomes from Ofsted inspections over the years. Away from Reading, Mrs Dorn has taken the school through a transformational writing

Summer Term Newsletter Page 2

journey, with levels of commitment, energy and persistence that are unmatched. As deputy head of the school, she continued her strive for excellence not only managing the smooth-running of day to day life at school but also being a driving force in reinventing both the school's approach to the curriculum and teaching and learning. During the toughest times in the school's history, from inspection to the Covid pandemic, Mrs Dorn always remained optimistic, positive and full of ideas of how to solve some of the most difficult challenges in school. We frequently talk about *pupils* being Eskdalers and rarely do we use the term when talking about adults. That said, Mrs Dorn *IS* the ultimate Eskdaler. A leader constantly thinking about how we can improve the school further, a teacher who consistently keeps our pupils and school community at the centre of her thinking and a human being who truly loves our school. I'm certain that I'll have missed something (if not many things!); the huge list of 'little things' that Mrs Dorn finds time for each day, week to week. It is challenging to describe how much I, and all those associated with school will miss her. She has been a constant for the children, staff and parents and it will be hard to imagine Eskdale without her. I know that she will be missed by everyone associated with the school and I'm sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for a happy and peaceful retirement.

The other significant departure is Miss Tabram who leaves Eskdale at the end of this school year to take up a leadership post at Bramcote Hills Primary. Since joining the school as a newly qualified teacher 11 years ago, Miss Tabram has continually strived to achieve the highest standard of teaching and has done so consistently, making a significant contribution to our end of key stage outcomes but also finding capacity over the years to provide a number of enriching opportunities for our pupils including choir, school newspaper and Maths Ambassadors. Away from the classroom, she has responsibility for History however it was her appointment as Maths leader that has transformed the subject at school: changing pupil attitudes towards the subject, raising its profile, but most notably, the impact of her leadership on our Maths end of key stage outcomes has been incredible, delivering the highest outcomes in the school's history in 2024. She has never backed away from a challenge and this was exemplified in a faultless interview with inspectors during Ofsted this school year.

Miss Tabram has demonstrated a huge amount of dedication to both the school and our children and much as I and the rest of school will be deeply saddened to see her leave, I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for a successful future.

As a result of Mrs Dorn leaving, Eskdale welcomes Mr Dransfield as our new deputy head teacher from September. Mr Dransfield joins us from Bramcote Hills Primary where he has been upper key stage two leader and leader of English. During this half term he has taken plenty of opportunity to find out more about Eskdale: meeting staff, parents and his new Y5 class. A notable part of Mr Dransfield's role will be leading Reading, building upon the excellent work that Mrs Dorn has delivered for the school in the last few years. I know he is very excited about working with your children and our school community.



Football

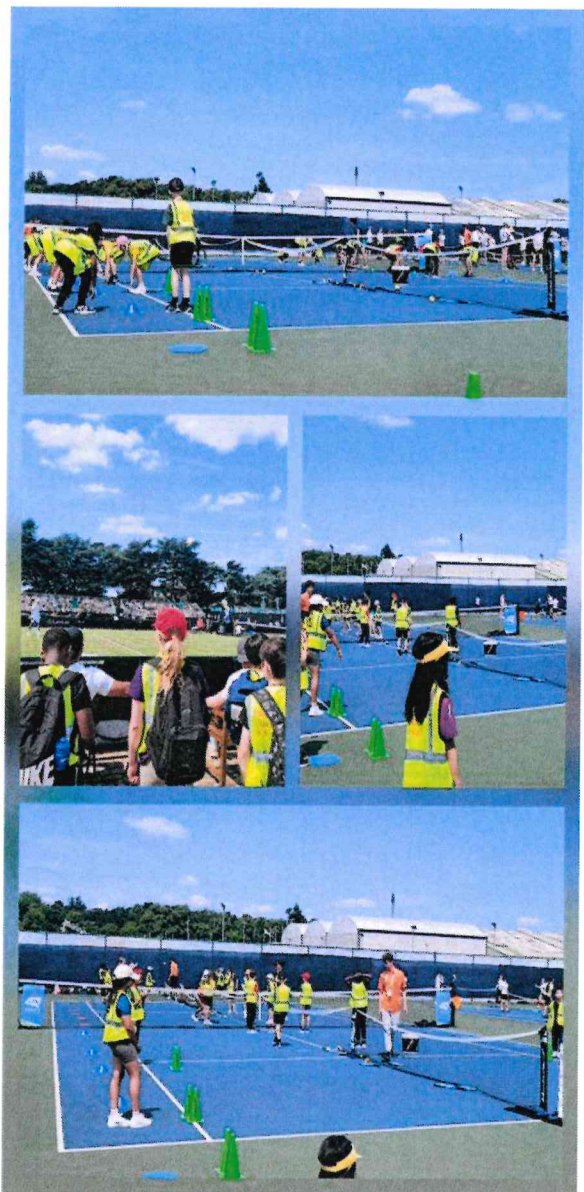
We ended our football season this half term for both girls and boys with final matches and two tournaments. The boys/mixed team finished with a 4-2 loss against Bispham Drive in the final match of the season. In the boys/mixed South Broxtowe tournament, the children finished 4th out of 6 teams in the group stage, missing the opportunity to reach the semi-finals. The girls fared better in their South Broxtowe tournament, not conceding a single goal (but also not scoring one either!) narrowly missing out on a semi-final place by just 1 point!

Well done to all those children who have been part of our football squads this year. They have shown a huge amount of commitment showing resilience in a season of highs and lows but maintaining an *aim high* attitude at all times. A special mention for parent Mr Cherry who has supported football this year, refereeing every home match that has been played at Eskdale. An enormous thank you also to Mr Ward from Phoenix FC who once again has given up his time on a Friday for training, sourcing new footballs for the children and being present at every match and tournament. His support has been invaluable and provided our girls with a truly memorable experience this year!



Y4 Visit the Lexus Open

Y4 had their P.E curriculum enriched with a visit to the Lexus Open Tournament at the Nottingham Tennis Centre. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in coaching, see a bit of the centre in full tournament mode and then watch some of the tennis matches before returning back to school. Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching experience for the children and to our Y4 team for their support and accompanying the children.



Sports Day

Our annual sports day was another tremendous success. Despite the challenges of a very hot day, all years showed real perseverance! Focusing on keeping active throughout the morning or afternoon, pupils across school challenged themselves in a number of sporting disciplines, competing against each other and accumulating points to be crowned the top House for 2025! It was amazing to see the children demonstrating such determination and resilience! This was particularly notable in the 'distance race' where pupils demonstrated our *take care* value, supporting those pupils who were falling behind, to finish the race with pride- such a special moment! Thank you to all those parents/carers who came to support their children and a special mention for all those who took part in the parent/carers race. Many thanks also to Mr Holmes for organising this memorable moment in the school's calendar. Congratulations to Sherwood House who were the overall winners this year.



Class Organisation School Year 2025/26

Class	Teacher
3H	Miss Hackett
3GH	Mrs Hunter/Miss Graves
4B	Mrs Bennett/Mrs Williams
4K	Miss Knightsbridge
5B	Mrs Briggs
5D	Mr Dransfield
6H	Mr Holmes
6G	Miss Groves
Miss Linley -Music for all years	
Mr Clues -P.E for all years	

Family Lunches

It was great to welcome parents/carers into school during lunchtime once again this term. Parents were able to taste a sample of the great meals that our meal provider Coombs delivers for the children each day but also have the opportunity to spend some time with their son or daughter and the pupils of Eskdale! Many thanks to Mrs Dorn and Mrs Clowes for organising the event and to all those parents/carers who were able to join us.

Armed Forces Day

We showed our support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community this term. Pupils were invited to attend school in 'camo' colours for a small donation. Many thanks to all those parents for their support by sending their children with a donation. Our Camo Day raised £174.00 which will be donated to Armed Forces charities.



Netball

Our netball team concluded their season with a tournament held at Bramcote Hills Primary earlier this half term. Despite not managing a win, the children never gave up (especially in the searing heat!) and demonstrated a true *Eskdaler* attitude. A special mention for Alfred in Y6 who scored the only goal in the tournament for the team! Well done to all those pupils who have taken part this year and a huge thank you to Miss Hackett and Miss Groves who have supported the children.

Sports Week

Pupils took part in sports week earlier this half term, taking part in a number of different sports and physical opportunities to enrich our P.E curriculum. In assembly we focused on healthy bodies and healthy minds before looking at all those other skills such as confidence, resilience and determination that can be gained from getting involved in sport. A huge amount of fun for all involved made even better by some fabulous weather! Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching opportunity.

Library Squad

Many thanks to our fabulous Library Squad this year who have been instrumental in ensuring our library remains tidy, well stocked with books and an accessible place for our children. They have also been great at organising activities for pupils across the year. Well done to all those children and many thanks to Mrs Dorn for providing this leadership opportunity for pupils.



School Council

Many thanks to our School Council who, after being nominated earlier this year have had a notable input to a number of events and opportunities. Well done to all those children who have represented school so well and many thanks to Mrs Bennett for supporting the children.

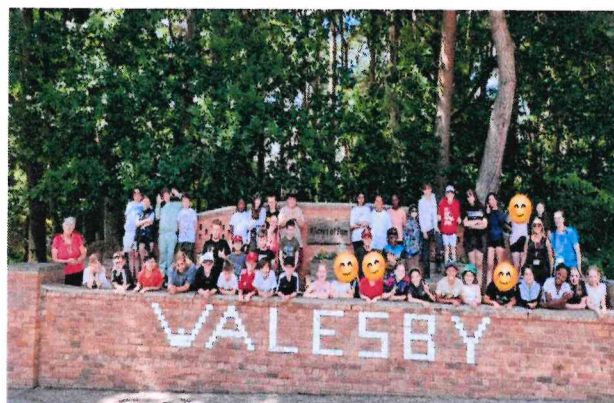


PTFA Summer Fair

Our PTFA worked tirelessly once again to ensure that our annual summer fair was another wonderful experience for all of our school community. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend on the night and the huge number of people who were involved in making it so special: staff, governors, parents/carers, Commando Joe, the PTFA and last, but by no means least, the wonderful Mrs Owen and Ms Heath who have worked almost day in and day out over the last few weeks! The summer fair raised a fabulous £1616.83!

Y6 Walesby Residential Visit

Y6 pupils headed off to leafy Walesby earlier this term for their three-day residential visit. Pupils took part in a number of exciting outdoor activities including indoor climbing, archery, zip wires, 3G swing and the highlight of the visit, activities in the lake! In the evening it was games in the summer sunshine, camp-fire singing and a disco! All the children had a fantastic time, creating some fond memories. Many thanks to Miss Groves for organising the visit and all those additional adults who were able to provide support over the three days.



Broxtowe Dynamo Cricket Tournament

A group of our Y6 pupils exceeded expectation in the Broxtowe Dynamo Cricket Tournament earlier this term by reaching the semi-finals of the competition where they narrowly lost out to a strong Trowell team. Even with one player down, the children gave a fantastic account of themselves, narrowly losing by only two runs! A huge well done to all those pupils who took part-amazing! Many thanks also to both Mr Holmes and Mrs Huntley who accompanied the children.



Y5 Bikeability

Y5 pupils took part in Bikeability earlier this term. Pupils learnt more about how to ride safely in the comfort of the school playground and then extended their skills by travelling out of school, navigating our busy local roads with the Bikeability instructors. A great *skills and knowledge for life* moment. Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this enriching opportunity for the children.



Inspire Reading Challenges

It was great to welcome Beeston library to assembly earlier this term who shared details of the free opportunities for pupils to be rewarded for reading over the summer holidays. I would urge all families and their children to take advantage of this excellent initiative, not forgetting that two libraries are just a short walk or tram ride from school!

Welcome to New Year 3

As we see one group of pupils leave, it is equally exciting to welcome a new group of pupils into Eskdale and set them off on their journey to become 'Eskdalers'. From all the transition activities, it certainly seems that the children are looking forward to starting Eskdale with a mix of both nerves and excitement!

Y6 Leavers

It is with a tremendous amount of sadness that we say goodbye to our Y6 pupils. I still remember their start to Eskdale and they have become a memorable part of our school history. Not only have they delivered fabulous SAT results but also exemplified everything it is to be true 'Eskdalers'.

It was great to give them an Eskdale send-off: leavers assembly, the Ultimate Eskdaler dinner and then a whole school 'guard of honour' as they walked out of the school gates for the final time!

It has been a pleasure to see them grow both academically and personally but satisfying knowing that they are now ready for the next stage in their education journey. Secondary school will bring new and exciting challenges. We wish all of our children all the best and look forward to hearing stories of their success!

Transition

Pupils found out earlier this half term what to expect as they enter the next stage in their Eskdale journey. All children had half a day of transition activity, getting to meet their new teacher and learning more about the expectations of their new class and year group.

The Sergeant Craig Brelsford Shield Award

Craig Brelsford was an ex-Eskdaler in the armed forces who sadly lost his life serving his country when he returned to save a colleague, while serving in Afghanistan back in 2007. Each year we present the award in his memory to pupils who have demonstrated courage and reliance while facing adversity. Well done to Georgina Radford and Tilly Giles who were the recipients of the award this year.

Y5 Chilwell Taster Day

While Y6 were spending time in the school that they would be starting in September, Y5 had the opportunity to begin to think about their school of choice for September 2026. Pupils took part in a range of activities, across a number of subjects at Chilwell School. Many thanks to our Y5 team for supporting the children.

Y6 Visit Trent Bridge

Pupils in Y6 had their P.E curriculum enriched with a visit to the iconic Trent Bridge earlier this half term. Pupils found out more about the history of cricket, where it is played in the world, had a tour of the stadium (including being able to stand on the hallowed turf!) and had the opportunity to play cricket in the 'nets'. A great day had by all. Many thanks to the Y6 staff for supporting the children and to Mr Holmes for organising this unique opportunity.



Y6 Performance 'School of Pop'

Y6 pupils delivered two wonderful performances of 'School of Pop' earlier this week. A tale of a very familiar sounding pop star (Barry Garlow) changing his career to teaching. Full of Take That puns, it really was such a joy to see our oldest children act and sing, demonstrating a huge amount of confidence and talent! Many thanks to all those involved in making it such a fabulous and memorable experience for the children: Mr Holmes, Miss Groves, Mrs Ebril, Mrs Deehan and Mrs Lee. Thank you also to all those parents/carers who were able to come and support their children by watching the two performances.

SATS

Y6 pupils participated in statutory national testing in May this term. In a true *aim high* style our Y6 pupils recorded fantastic outcomes exceeding national values in Reading, Writing, Grammar and Maths! Results of particular note were the number of pupils reaching greater depth standard which have improved since 2024. These outcomes are only possible as a result of fantastic teaching and a huge effort by all the wonderful staff in Y6 in supporting the children. So proud of all our Y6 pupils and staff!

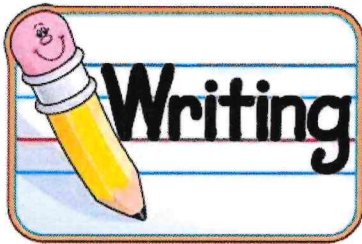
Y4 National Times Tables Test

In other national testing, our Y4 pupils were put through their paces with the national times table test. The children demonstrated a tremendous amount of focus, supported by a fabulous teaching and teaching assistant team in Y4. Our outcomes exceed last year's values with nearly 90% of pupils scoring 20 or more out of 25 questions and half of the cohort scoring 100% So proud of all our children who took part! Many thanks to the Y4 team who have supported the children so well!



Writing Celebration Event

We have spent the last two years refreshing our approach to the teaching of writing and Mrs Dorn hosted four events for pupils and parents/carers across all years earlier this term to celebrate writing at Eskdale. Parents/carers were invited to sit with their child, find out a bit more about the school's approach to writing and then took some time to look at both writing books and journals. These events had such a lovely atmosphere with the children 'showing off' their writing talents. Many thanks to Mrs Dorn for organising this enriching opportunity.



Book Swap

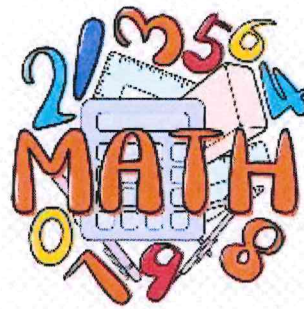
Our popular book swap returned earlier this half term. Pupils had the opportunity to bring one (or many!) book/s to school to be able to exchange for a new book read. This always a fantastic event and it always lovely to see the children engage with such enthusiasm. Many thanks to Mrs Dorn for organising this enriching opportunity-especially at such a busy time of year.

Attendance

We finished the school year with impressive attendance-97%. We also had 89 pupils reaching 100% attendance for the term as well as an amazing 36 pupils reaching 100% for the whole year! Well done to all those children and many thanks to all those parents who ensure their children's attendance remains high at all times!

Maths Ambassadors

Similarly to our Library Squad, our Maths Ambassadors have been excellent in promoting Maths in school and supporting pupils with developing their mathematical skills. Well done to all those pupils and many thanks to Miss Tabram for providing this leadership opportunity for our children.



Drumming Performance

It was wonderful to be able to watch pupils from across school who have drumming tuition with Rockley Music showing off their skills and talent in a performance for parents/carers earlier this term. The children were fantastic showing both rhythm, coordination and focus as they drummed along to a range of musical genres. So proud of all these children. I was especially impressed with our Y6 pupils who were excellent after a number of years receiving tuition. Thank you to all those parent/carers who were able to attend and a huge thank you to Charlie from Rockley Music for organising the mini concert.



Annual Parent Survey

Thank you to all those who contributed to the annual parent/carer survey that was shared via Google Forms this term. Once again, We are thrilled with the outcomes! As ever, there is still plenty to be done and we will begin work on those areas of improvement in September so we can strive to serve our school community ever better. A copy of the outcomes of the questionnaire accompanies this newsletter. Thank you once again for all your support!

Y6 Leavers Assembly

The final day of term was filled with sadness and celebration in equal measure with our Y6 leavers assembly taking us down a memory lane of 4 years, reflecting on our Y6 pupils Eskdale journey. Y6 staff did a wonderful job and there wasn't a dry eye in the house (hall!) as parents/carers joined us to say a final Eskdale goodbye to our oldest pupils in school. A truly poignant moment!

Highland Games

A group of our Y6 pupils attended Alderman White School for the 'Highland Games'. Pupils competed against other schools in a number of alternative 'sporting' activities such as welly throwing and a farmer dash with the afternoon culminating in a tug-o-war! In a number of impressive performances, school came runners up! Many thanks to Mr Holmes for organising this different experience and thanks to Mrs Huntley for accompanying the children.



Y6 Treat Day

We twinned the celebration of SATS ending and the end of the year with an afternoon of activity. Pupils took part in a 'silent disco' before racing around the school field avoiding a multitude of coloured powder as part of a 'Colour Throw'. The children had a fantastic time and we're very colourful by the end! A great way of ending the school year. A huge thank you to Mrs Heath and Mrs Owen of our PTFA for organising this memorable moment for our pupils.

Digital Leaders

Many thanks to our Digital Leaders who, similarly to our Library Squad and Maths Ambassadors have championed all things computing under the guidance of Mrs Briggs. The children have led assemblies and promoted Safer Internet Week as well as dealing with lots of tech-related challenges in school. Well done to all those children and many thanks to Mrs Briggs for providing this leadership opportunity

Term Time Dates

A reminder to parents to check ALL term time dates for the year 2025/26 (available on the school website) to avoid any misunderstandings or leave of absence requests.

Reminders!

Monday 1st September - School Administration Day (the children are not in school)

Tuesday 2nd September - Inset day (the children are not in school)

All children are back in school on Wednesday 3rd September.

Thank you once again for all your support and I wish all our school community a safe and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely,
R Scruton
Head Teacher



Believe Strive Achieve

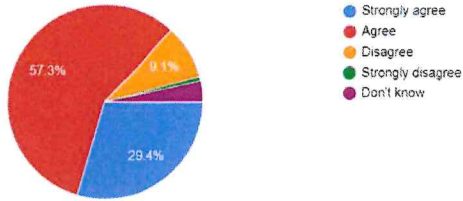
**Parent Questionnaire
Summary of Results 2025**

2024	143 responses	2025	153 responses
<p>1. My child is happy at this school.</p> <p>143 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeDon't know <p>Agree/strongly agree: 97%</p>		<p>1. My child is happy at this school.</p> <p>153 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeDon't know <p>Agree/strongly agree: 95%</p>	
<p>2. My child feels safe at this school.</p> <p>143 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeDon't know <p>Agree/strongly agree: 97%</p>		<p>2. My child feels safe at this school.</p> <p>152 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeDon't know <p>Agree/strongly agree: 97%</p>	
<p>3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.</p> <p>142 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeDon't know <p>Agree/strongly agree: 95%</p>		<p>3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.</p> <p>153 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeDon't know <p>Agree/strongly agree: 94%</p>	
<p>4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.</p> <p>143 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">My child has not been bulliedStrongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeDon't know		<p>4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.</p> <p>150 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">My child has not been bulliedStrongly agreeAgreeDisagreeStrongly disagreeDon't know	

Believe Strive Achieve

5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

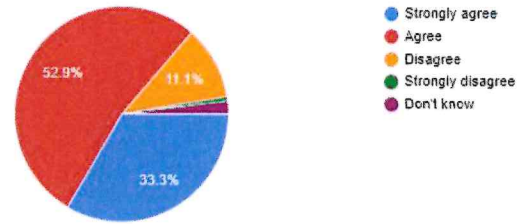
143 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 87%

5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

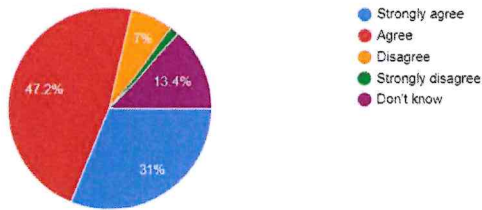
153 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 86%

6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.

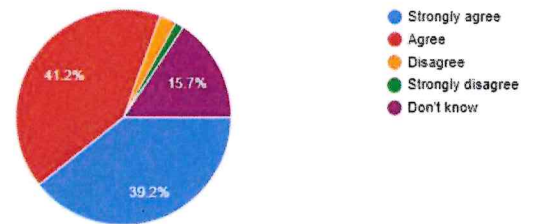
142 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 78%

6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.

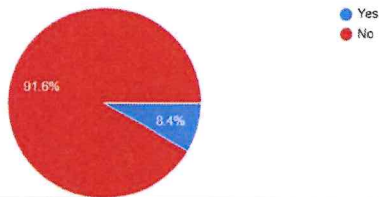
153 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 80%

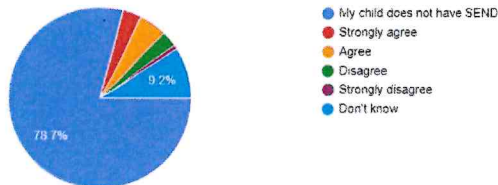
7. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

143 responses



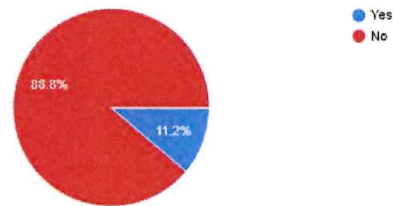
8. My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

141 responses



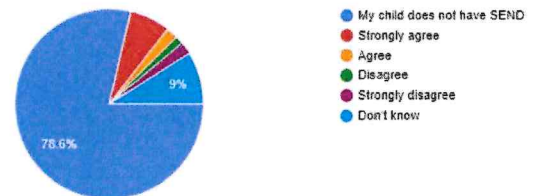
7. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

152 responses



8. My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

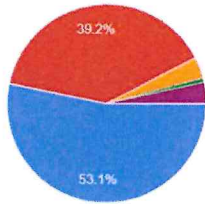
145 responses



Believe Strive Achieve

9. The school has high expectations for my child.

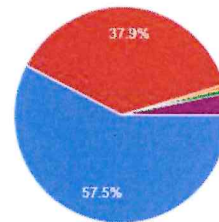
143 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 92%

9. The school has high expectations for my child.

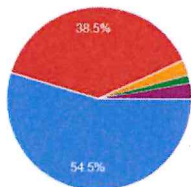
153 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 95%

10. My child does well at this school.

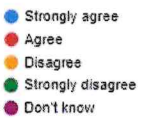
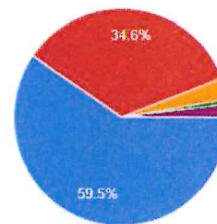
143 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 93%

10. My child does well at this school.

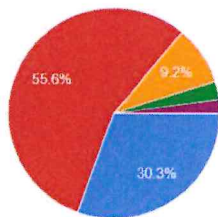
153 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 94%

11. The school lets me know how my child is doing.

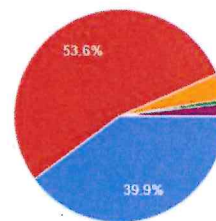
142 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 86%

11. The school lets me know how my child is doing.

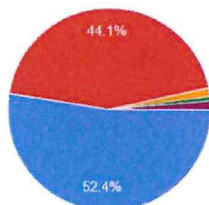
153 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 94%

12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school

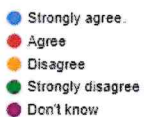
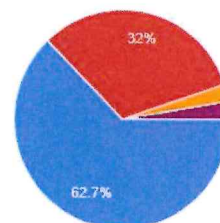
143 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 97%

12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school

153 responses

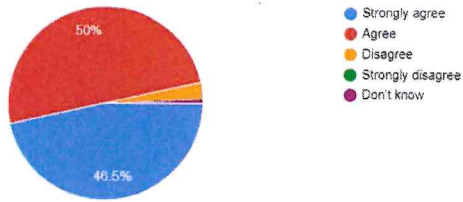


Agree/strongly agree: 95%

Believe Strive Achieve

13. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

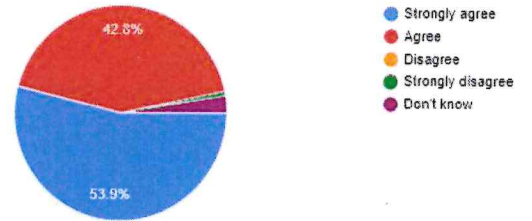
142 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 97%

13. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

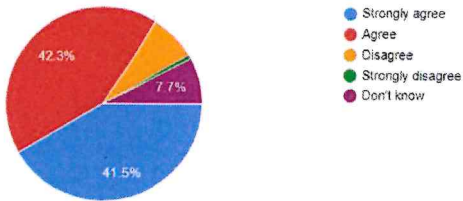
152 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 97%

14. The school supports my child's wider personal development.

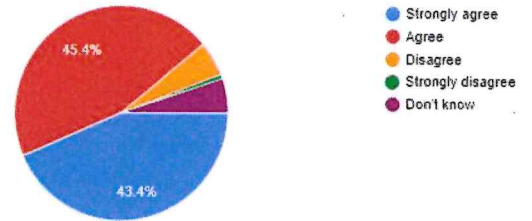
142 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 84%

14. The school supports my child's wider personal development.

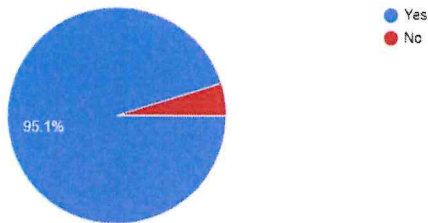
152 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 89%

15. I would recommend this school to another parent.

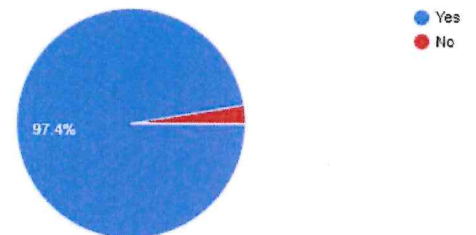
143 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 95%

15. I would recommend this school to another parent.

153 responses



Agree/strongly agree: 97%