

# *Brookdale Primary School*

## *Together we Believe, Progress, Succeed*

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November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to thank those of you who took the time to complete the Parent Survey earlier this month. Of 183 families in school, we had 106 responses and the feedback, as you will see, is overwhelmingly positive. We were pleased to also receive some useful feedback to consider with our senior leadership team and governing body to further improve our children's experiences here at Brookdale.

Below, I have provided a full summary of the responses to our questions and an overview of recurring comments. Please note however that where necessary, myself or a member of the senior team will contact parents individually to discuss issues that have been raised that relate only to their child or issues that have not been raised by any other parent.

The main recurring suggestions for improvement were:

1. More opportunities for extra-curricular clubs
2. More consistent use of Class Dojo
3. More regular feedback about how my child is doing
4. Different platforms of communication can be confusing
5. Management of COVID restrictions

Our response to these suggestions:

1. More opportunities for extra-curricular clubs  
We are already offering Cross Country, Art, Science, Book, and Meccano clubs and have plans to hold various other sporting clubs and introduce a school choir later in the year. We will consider ways in which we could widen these opportunities to more children and will ask the children, through School Council, about any further clubs they would like us to consider offering.
2. More consistent use of Class Dojo  
We will look at ways of ensuring greater consistency of the use of Dojo rewards and communication about what the class are doing each week to ensure parents feel well-informed and more involved in their child(ren)'s learning.
3. More regular feedback about how my child is doing  
Parents are offered a Curriculum Morning and a parents' evening in the first term, a parents' evening in the second term and an end of year school report; the SENDCo also meets termly with parents of SEND children. Class teachers and the headteacher are available at the start and end of every school day if parents wish to ask any questions about their child and are also happy to arrange longer appointments, via the school office, at any time to meet with parents if they wish to discuss anything in greater detail or are unable to see teachers at drop off or pick up times.
4. Different platforms of communication can be confusing  
Our communication platforms are for different purposes:  
**Dojo** – for communicating directly with your child's class teacher and to track your child's rewards  
**School Spider** – for the school office to send whole school letters / information  
**Tapestry** – this is only used in F2 to record children's learning  
**Website** – generic information about our school & class pages to share what your child's class are learning each term

## 5. Management of COVID restrictions

As you will see from the wide variety of comments and responses to the COVID question in the summary below, opinion is heavily divided on this issue (as is the case nationally) and it will therefore be difficult for us to take actions that meet every parents' requirements.

As a school, we are endeavouring to keep things as 'normal' as possible for the children and ensure they are able to enjoy many of the things they have missed out on over the last 2 years whilst also adhering to Public Health England Guidance and putting in additional measures to: ensure everyone is safe, can enjoy Christmas with their families and not isolating due to unnecessary contact with others and that we can remain open to all pupils, avoiding further school closures as a result of large amounts of COVID cases.

Many thanks again for your continued support – our partnership with parents is of paramount importance to us and helps us to help the children feel happy and safe in school and to make the best possible progress while they are with us.

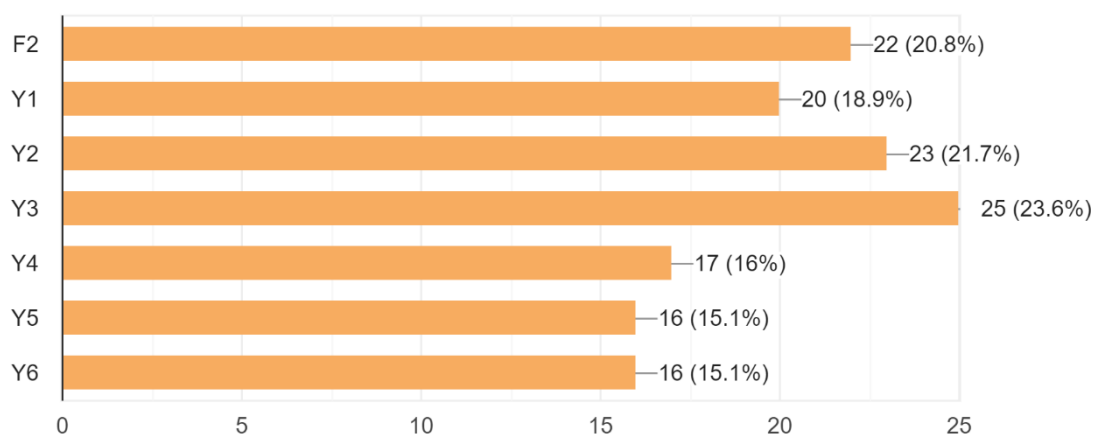
Yours sincerely



Kate Ball (Headteacher)

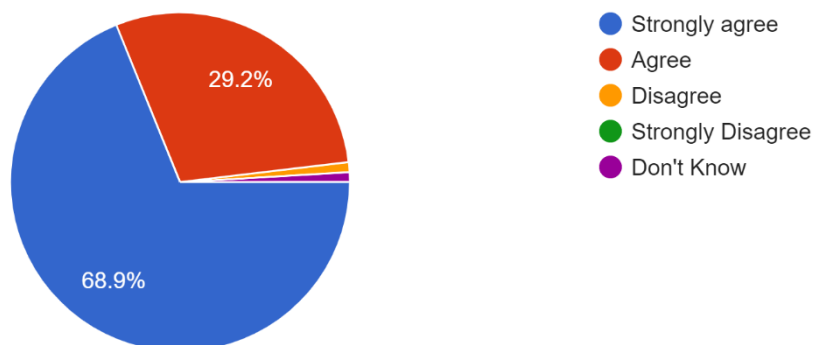
## Year Group of child(ren) - SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

106 responses



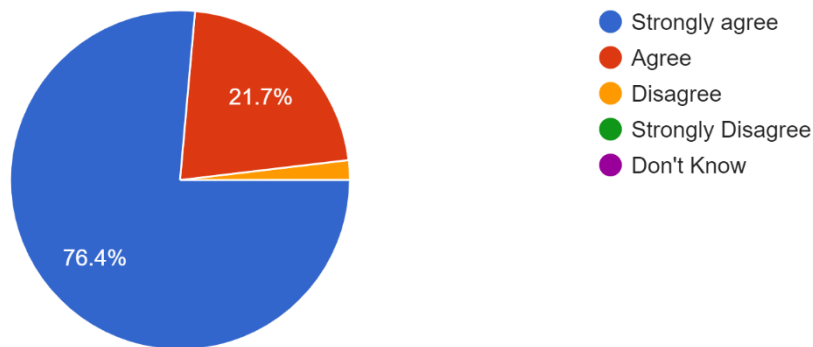
## My child is happy at Brookdale.

106 responses



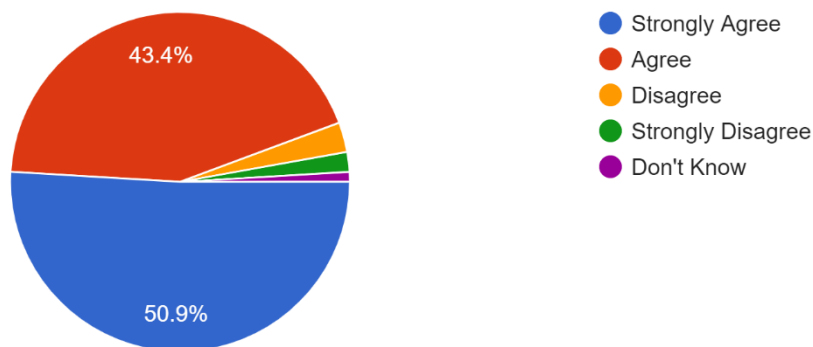
My child feels safe at Brookdale.

106 responses



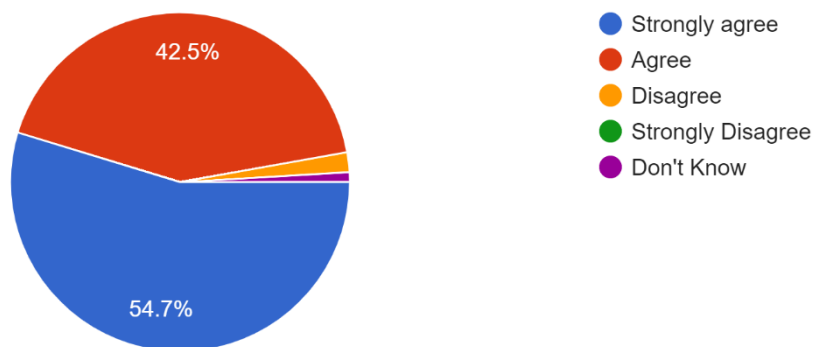
The COVID restrictions this year have struck a good balance of keeping us and our children safe whilst allowing school to feel as 'normal' as possible.

106 responses



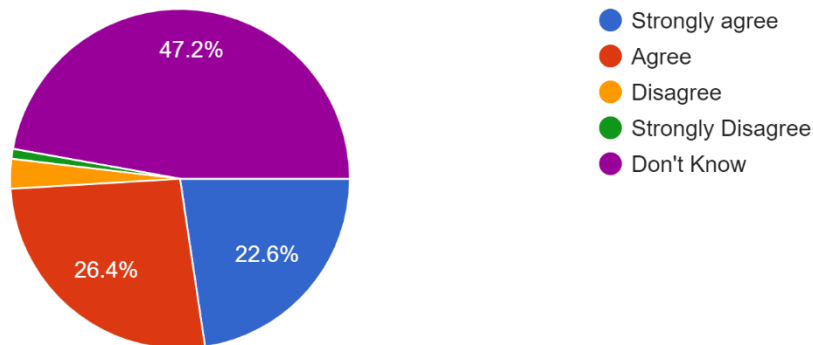
The children at Brookdale are generally well behaved and well mannered.

106 responses



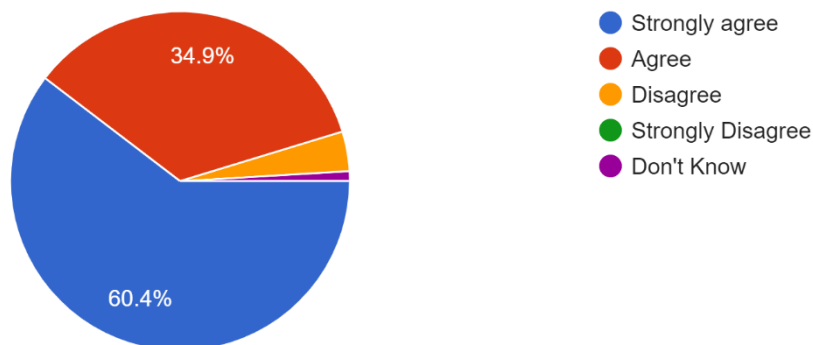
The school supports pupils who are being bullied by working with parents to deal with the bullying quickly and effectively. (Bullying is defined as 'de...ur repeated over time with an imbalance of power').

106 responses



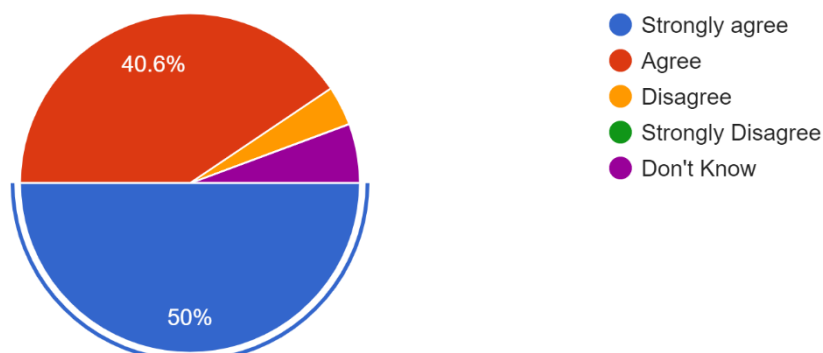
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

106 responses



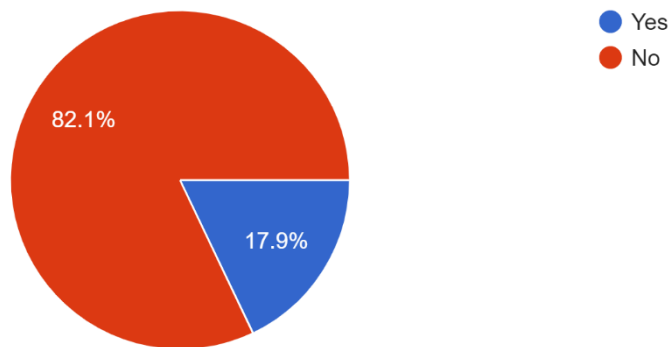
I feel that if I raise concerns with the school, they will be dealt with properly.

106 responses



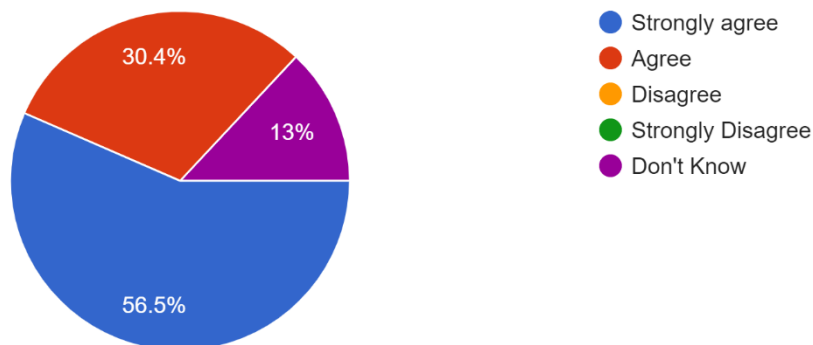
Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

106 responses



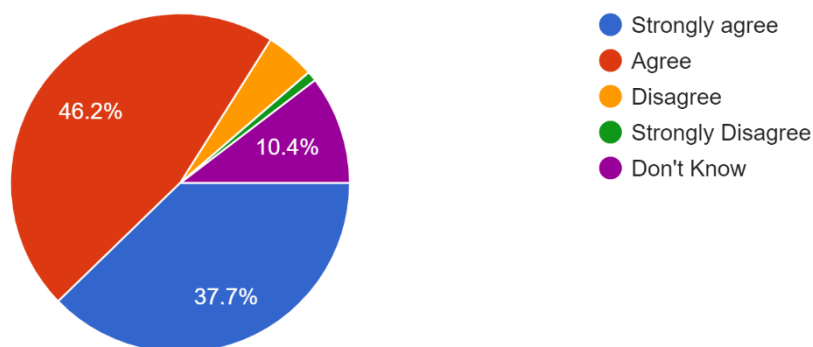
PLEASE ONLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES ABOVE: My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

23 responses



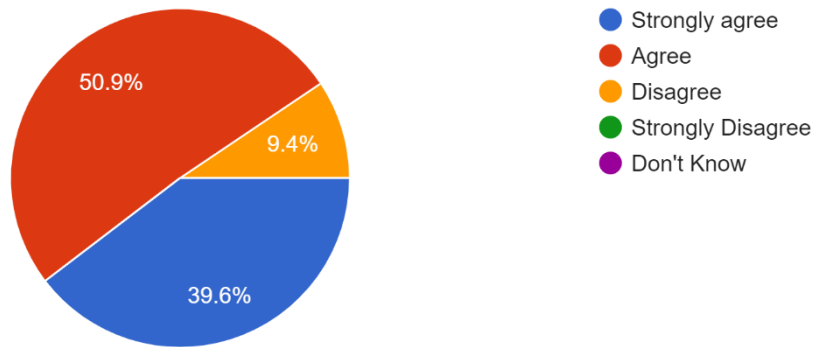
The school has high expectations for my child.

106 responses



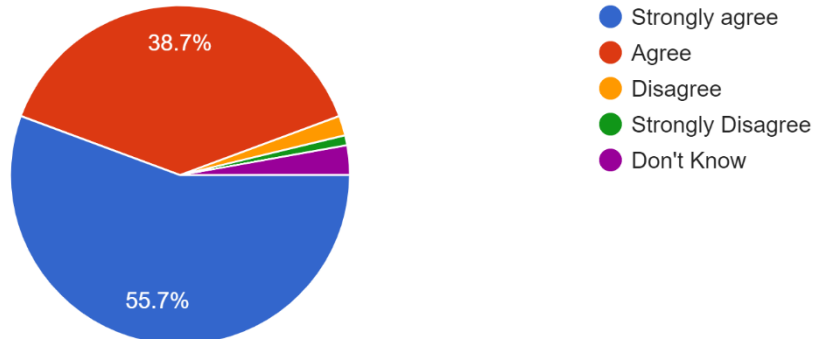
The school lets me know how my child is doing.

106 responses



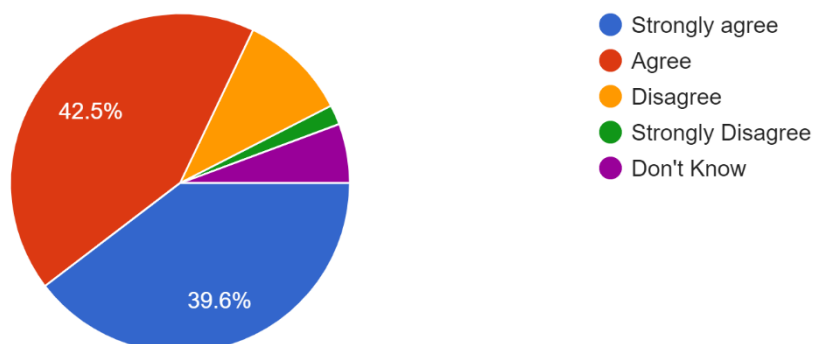
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

106 responses



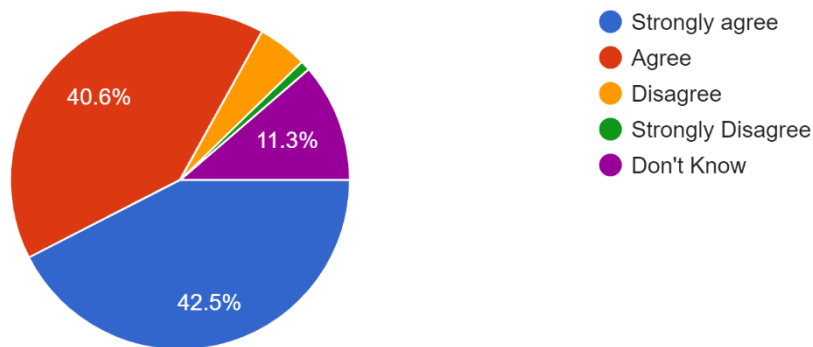
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

106 responses



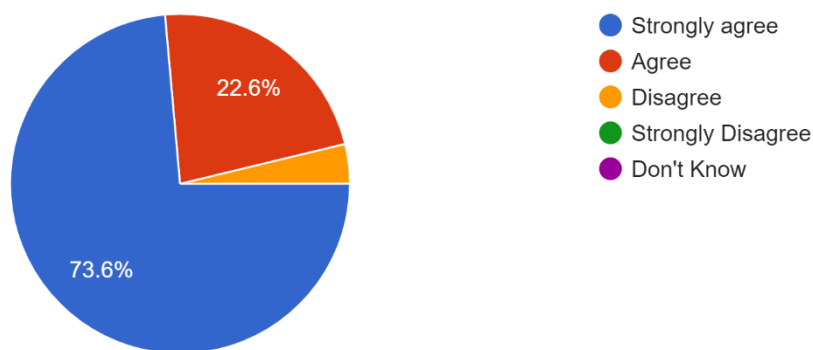
The school supports my child's wider personal development.

106 responses



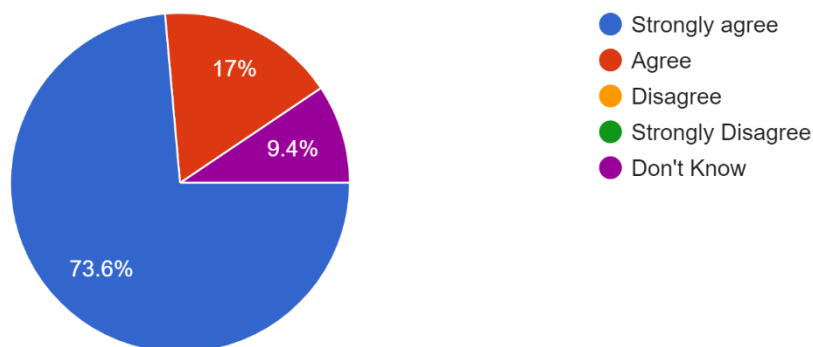
My child's class teachers are approachable and I have opportunities to raise concerns with them should I need to

106 responses



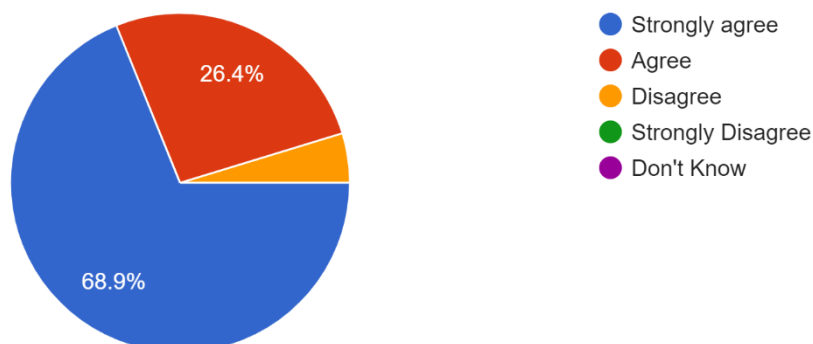
The new headteacher has been available, approachable and has dealt with any concerns I have raised quickly and effectively

106 responses



The school has had good communication systems in place (paper, email, website & phone) to ensure I am kept informed.

106 responses



**If you wish to make any comment / raise any concerns about the COVID arrangements, please do so below.**

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE, WE HAVE ONLY INCLUDED COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY MORE THAN ONE PARENT \*\*\*\*

25 responses

I feel that it is a shame that Christmas performances are online this year, given that most people are now fully vaccinated and the children are mixing in school anyway. I understand that this is in response to council guidance, but the children have missed out on so much.

I'm concerned that by having windows and doors open in this winter for ventilation is actually just going to cause more colds and illnesses for the children. I understand these decisions are based on guidance and this isn't a criticism of Brookdale's actions.

I think pick up is far too busy and crowded. I preferred when we had staggered pick up time

I do feel with the rise of cases may be re-introducing the wearing of masks and reintroducing the one way system when dropping off / collecting children may be something to look at.

I am very happy with how Brookdale has handled everything in regards to the COVID restrictions.

The school has done an exceptional job in very challenging circumstances.

My child tested positive for covid on weekend day, I know teachers are entitled to time off but I feel there should have been an emergency contact to relay this information to. I received no response until the Monday and the covid email didn't go out to other parents until then. Had it not been for our Facebook group other parents in the class wouldn't have been aware of this and therefore continued with weekend activities before testing their children.



## Please comment on any aspects of the school you have been especially pleased with:

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE, WE HAVE ONLY INCLUDED COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY MORE THAN ONE PARENT \*\*\*\*

106 responses

Communication has been great

XXXX only joined Brookdale in Year 3 and his development has been unbelievable. I am so happy I moved him to Brookdale. The teaching is of a high standard and Miss Ball is approachable and friendly yet has a strong leadership which is just fabulous. Thank you.

Teachers are very approachable and build up relationships with the children. My children are very happy at Brookdale and I feel both their academic and emotional needs are met.

New headteacher is always present and seems approachable. The school as a whole has a lovely warmth and the teachers on the most part are amazing!

Teachers deal with concerns straight away.

Personal approach and helping XXXX settle into school when he found it hard at first. The star of the week and dojo points work really well to allow XXXX to feel proud of himself and his achievements as well as having something to aim for.

Happy supportive place to learn

We are thrilled with Brookdale ..... XXXXXX is excellent and clearly knows all the children as individuals and nurtures their strengths. XXXXX has also been receiving speech therapy and is doing so well with this. The SENDCo has been so helpful in relation to this and really is a credit to the school. The extra-curricular activities available are also excellent ..... I feel that both boys are doing well educationally and emotionally.

I love that the school places an emphasis on kind, helpful behaviour and is focused on celebrating a child's strengths. I'm also very impressed with the focus on good mental health and equality/inclusion, which I feel is vitally important from a young age.

The way that We have been supported with family concerns not only in school, but outside of school too, all the teachers have been fantastic.

Supporting the well-being of my child and taking the time to listen to them.

I like the Curriculum mornings and the Brookdale Bulletin.

Excellent F2 induction. Both of our children have breezed into F2, thanks to the wonderful F2 team and links with pre-school. Excellent communication from some teachers. Friendly and approachable staff. Any queries or questions are dealt with quickly. Good communication during the second partial school closure. Acorns is fabulous - wonderful staff.

Supportive and proactive PTA. We really appreciated the effort they made during lockdown, e.g. online quizzes and virtual events. We love their real-life events too!

Star of the week and growth mindset awards are the highlight of the year for both our children. We love that parents are invited to celebration assembly and love the addition of the 'shout outs' this year.

How happy my child is each day to go into school

Pastoral care and transition for my child is always thorough

Our kids love acorns and this has a huge impact on our work life balance! Staff there are a credit to the school and flexibility with booking is helpful and much appreciated.

All XXX's teachers have been great so far and also very pleased with pre-school! Brookdale has been a great choice of school for us please keep up all the good work and thank you to all the team!

The family feel of the school and how the older children support the younger ones is lovely.

I'm just happy with it all pretty much, my child's happy and to me that's the main thing. She is learning well and enjoys all she does

Absolutely love Brookdale. Couldn't be happier with daughter's teachers.

The promotion of school values and being part of the Brookdale family

Meeting my child's needs

Homeschool support during Covid

The way in which the school has dealt with a turbulent 18 months, COVID & the transition with a new headteacher, has been exceptional. Learning provision and support feels like it has been uninterrupted given the circumstances.

A well-balanced curriculum.

My daughter is enjoying school and F2 are doing a brilliant job of welcoming her in and teaching her. Great communication, care and support for children. Really helpful to have breakfast club starting 15 minutes earlier. Good to see school values linked to growth mindset award. Great to see lots of surveys asking for feedback. The gymnastics after school for half a term was great - would love for my daughter to do this again. The promotion of school values and the children being part of the Brookdale Family. The warmth of the headteacher towards both children and parents.

The school is very welcoming. Teachers are very visible and engaging with children and parents.

I love everything about our school it's brilliant

I think the way that morning is given to English and Maths every day but that there is time for other subjects in the afternoon is really positive. I appreciate that the children must have lots of catching up to do but it's so important to still provide a rounded education with PE and art as well as science and humanities. I am so glad that you haven't sacrificed these subjects.

Covid times have been especially hard but Brookdale has always put the children's safety first. It has been nice the past couple of months where we have been able to do some 'normal' things like the assemblies, curriculum mornings and the Autumn PTA event.

Sports

## Please comment on any aspects of the school you would like to see improved:

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE, WE HAVE ONLY INCLUDED COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY MORE THAN ONE PARENT \*\*\*\*

106 responses

Nothing

If possible I would like to see more photographs of my children participating in activities during the school day. However I appreciate this may be difficult for the teaching staff due to the demands of teaching and supervision of the children (which I agree should be the priority).

More feedback on how the pupil is doing on regular basis, not only during parent's evening.

After school activity clubs are very limited places available and it's not clear if you have a place or not- I think more advance notice should be given for this to parents. I would also like were possible a return of some of the fun activities for children such as the halloween disco didn't happen this year- obviously within the covid guidelines. .... they have all missed out on so much - so any small things I think would go a long way.

The different ways to find information were confusing at first- once I realised some info was on the website, some on Tapestry and some via School Spider or Dojo that really helped!

I also would have loved to attend the learning morning but was unable to due to work commitments

None - it's perfect.

The reward system needs to be used more in class (dojos) and weekly rewards given out appropriately. I would like something like tapestry so I know what the children are doing daily, just a quick update of something they've done during the day.

It would be great if there could be coffee mornings for other parents/send parents etc (I know other schools are running these) so we can chat informally.

There needs to be more diversity taught in school e.g LGBTQ etc rather than just one week a year.

May be a little more knowledge of what the children are learning in class on a weekly/monthly basis. Are they doing a project or learning something specific etc. Some children seem to magically forget when they walk through the gates what they have done all day.

A wider range of affordable clubs after school would be great.

Consistent use of Dojo across the school to keep parents up to date on what the children are learning. Some classes post more than others. We really appreciate the photos showing whole class activities, it doesn't have to be anything too wordy or personal to each child. Our children like us to share Dojo posts with them, which then prompts some lovely discussions about their day and their learning.

VIPERS homework. This has felt more like a homework for the parents than the children! Thanks to Mr Jones' parent workshop, XXXX now does this independently, however can only confidently and meaningfully complete a vocabulary, predict or summarise activity.

Please introduce Spanish as a language option

I think it would be nice for the children to have more trips out of school once restrictions have been lifted.

More non-sporting extra-curricular activities.

No. Excellent all round.

Nothing. Everyone is continuing to do an excellent job in very difficult circumstances and we are so grateful.