

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear parents/carers and children,

We are almost at half term, and I think we all need to congratulate ourselves for surviving this term so far, in such unprecedented times.

Firstly, I would like to reassure you that any home schooling you are managing with your children, whilst juggling jobs, siblings, animals etc is **GOOD ENOUGH!** Please do not feel pressured or compare yourselves to your perception of what others are doing. Every family needs to do what works for you, and fits in with your lifestyle, which I can guarantee is not a 'one size fits all' approach. The same is true for schools. We are all different, and work hard to cater for our communities, so comparisons do little to help serve the children and the needs for each school. I would like to share some pictures with you that made me think about home schooling, as there are many thoughts, feelings and frustrations on this very subject! Home schooling is not for the faint-hearted. Many of us are parents here too; we understand, and we feel your pain!



In an ideal world, we would all achieve the expectations we set for ourselves, but in reality, life doesn't work that way, and the main thing we need to remember is **FORGIVENESS!** Forgive yourselves if it doesn't work the way we wanted, or how it looks on pinterest, or that person who shared their incredible model their 5 year old did in Australia on facebook. Chances are, the adults spent more time on that model than the 5 year old anyway! **Perceptions are not always the reality.** Forgive others if the internet fails, or you miss a call/text etc, or if something doesn't work on a link first time. It's hard for everyone, and the broadband hasn't quite caught up with the speed of the pandemic! Forgive the roadworks and traffic lights everywhere at the moment, and remember that the roads will be better for our tyres and the broadband will be better for our internet connections when they are complete. Take a moment at the lights to relax, rather than stress. Forgive your children if they don't feel like doing their work, or get stropky and cross with you. Remember, if adults are stressed in the current situation, think about their little worlds and what this must feel like for them. Just give yourselves a break,

take a minute to reflect on how much you've actually achieved in the last 5 weeks, and celebrate that in whatever way you please! Your good enough is **GOOD ENOUGH!**

I have outlined some changes we have made, based on your feedback, which so far this week, have worked really well, and teachers are reporting a positive change too (when the internet works).

We have...

- 🌈 Lengthened assemblies, and I have planned in weekly stories/quizzes to provide some happiness and end of week fun for the children which we normally have in assembly altogether. This, I am hoping will help children's mental well-being.
- 🌈 Added more zooms for live learning and interaction with teachers, to help children understand expectations and to add a further layer of support. **THESE EXTRA ZOOMS ARE OPTIONAL.** Teachers send pre-recorded explanations or learning links to all children for core subjects. They are there for children who need/want this facility, but we also understand some children may prefer to work offline. This is OK.
- 🌈 Reached out to parents via our parent reps to see if anyone can set up some class 'social' zooms away from schoolwork, as the children's feedback in KS2 was mainly that they wanted time to chat to their friends on zoom.
- 🌈 Teachers continue to provide bespoke learning for all children's needs. Some children have their own learning sent to them to enable them to achieve their personal potential, with personalised 121 support where needed.
- 🌈 When families request paper copies, we print these for them to collect wherever possible. This is not a new change, but I want to highlight this facility again in case families have missed this communication.
- 🌈 Teachers are adapting planning to ensure a further balance to practical activities, to try to enable further independence for the children.
- 🌈 The senior leadership team are available daily, and respond to all needs to help families at home, along with strategic planning for the children in school currently.

The timetables are as always, a guide. Do what works for you, your children and your circumstances.

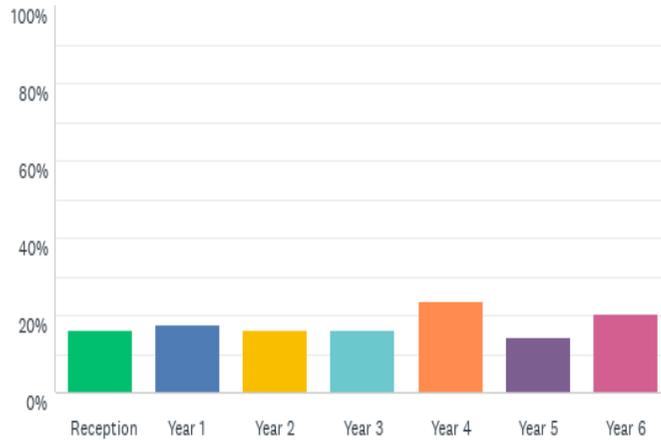
You can see the results to the remote learning survey we sent out below. What is clear, is that the majority of people are all finding this situation tough, including the staff here...so please know that we really are all in this together. Thank you so much for all your positive feedback and constructive suggestions, and for everything you are doing to try and keep on top of home learning during this time! As always, stay safe and reach out if you need us.

Have a safe and happy weekend

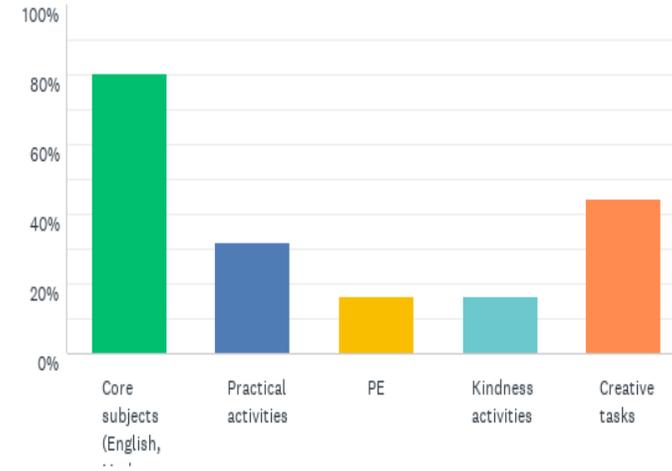


Miss Robbins and all the team here at BPS

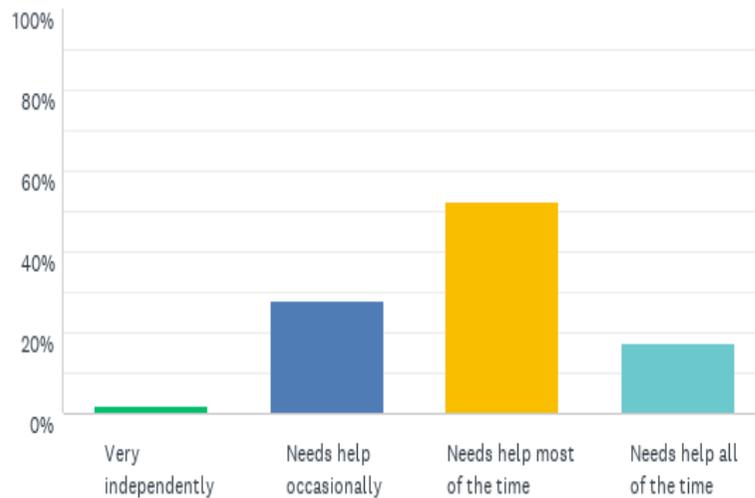
Q1 What year group are your child/ren in? Tick the year groups that apply



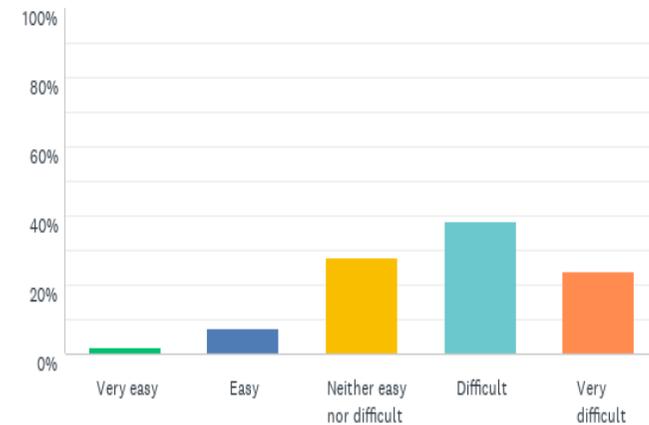
Q2 Which subjects are engaging your children most at home? Tick those that apply



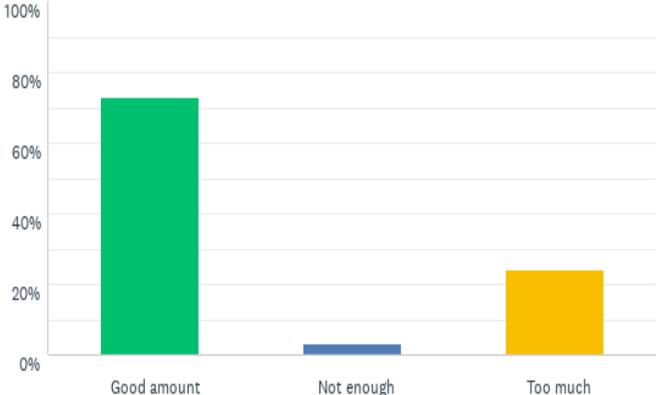
Q3 How independently does your child work?



Q4 How easy is it to fit home schooling into home life? If you have answered difficult, please outline the main difficulty you have found in the comments box e.g. balancing working from home and home schooling

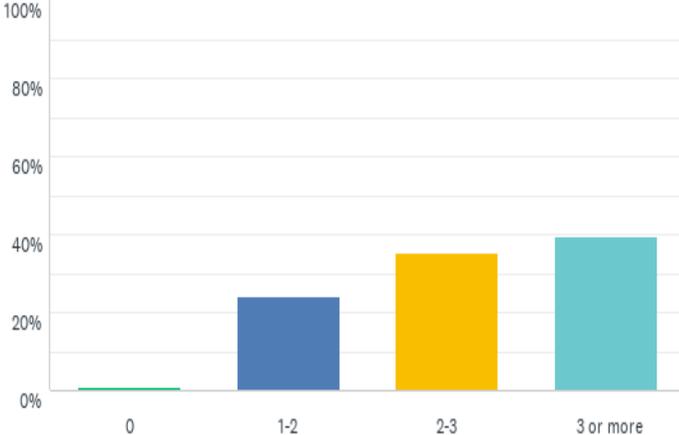


Q5 The government guidelines recommend 3-5 hours of remote learning per day. How do you and your child find the volume of work set?

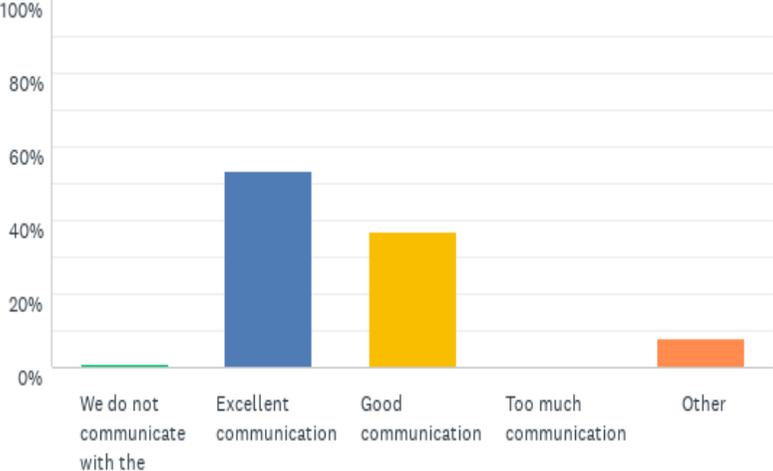


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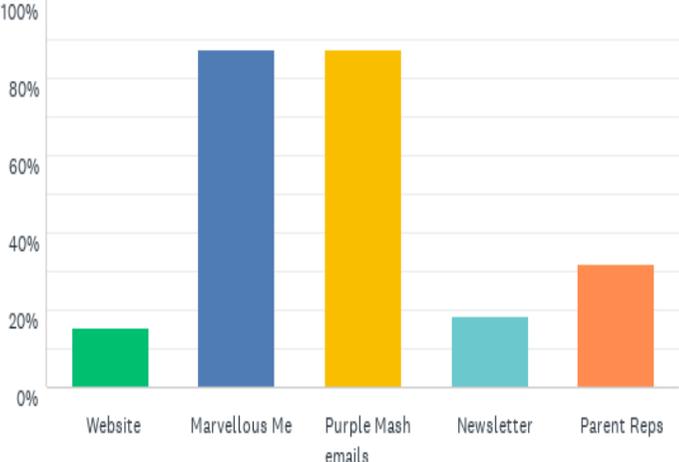
Q6 How long are you spending on home schooling each day?



Q7 How do you find the level of communication with teachers?



Q8 What method of communication do you check regularly?



YOUR POSITIVE FEEDBACK	YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS
Celebration assemblies are great.	Daily zoom calls are brilliant. If it was possible, this is what would be great to increase.
Online lessons and daily reading helps. Seeing the rest of the class is great. Feedback via email from the teacher on work submitted is fantastic for morale. Thanks	I think that more live learning would be hugely beneficial. I think that direct feedback would be a big help to motivate the children as MM tends to be via a parent
The zoom sessions are definitely a huge boost for my child. She missed seeing faces or even hearing voices so much last time and to have regular sessions is making a very positive difference	Zoom lessons are most enjoyable more interaction with each other and zoom would be good
Zoom reading..... it means that my Y1 child & my Y6 child can see their teacher & friends on a daily basis. They both REALLY value this time.	More zoom lessons would be good
Messages from teachers, zoom stories and assemblies! Certificates, HT Awards and house points. Photos of friends on social media so they can see what everyone is doing. BFG wellbeing community events. Positive encouragement from the school. THANK YOU!	Purple mash activities tend to usually be easier (with the exception of the coding activity set last week). Creative activities of making items, are trickier as they involve parent support which I do not have time to do within school hours and therefore home learning is becoming more like homework completed in the evenings and weekends. This is not preferred and X is put off by this
Storyline online - our child loves this contact with friends and Mr Hart	More work that can be done independently
Lovely to have the daily well-being tasks! Loves seeing his teacher on zoom. Really loved the zoom lessons.	More online lessons would be great as he seems to enjoy that more than anything, 1 per week is not enough for us. But a great job by the teachers I salute you.
The daily story time is great just to have contact with her class. There is also good support and communication with Mr. Hart regarding work	X says it would be helpful if the tasks could be explained in more detail, perhaps with examples of what is expected and how much to write. He enjoys the daily zoom reading session and would love an additional Zoom lesson per day.
Personal emails help a great deal	More online live or pre-recorded for core subjects
I think the zoom online class lessons are a great help to bring some normality to X's week. Also seeing Mrs Ferris reading stories etc. really helps	Not sure? For those with additional needs maybe some targeted activities where the whole class activity is a bit beyond their current level.
The zoom stories are great.	More face to face teacher time please

Zoom is amazing for the children and the videos X's teacher puts up helps her lots.	More live or recorded teacher led lessons not independent activities
Story time and direct contact are good.	In an ideal world, it would be nice for teachers to remotely teach, thus having less pressure on parents to be the teacher.
Key worker support has made an enormous difference to both children's mental wellbeing.	More live online lessons. My daughter engages well with her Friday morning zoom lesson.
The zoom meetings are fab so they can catch up with teachers and friends each day. They are also really boosted by the praise they get from teachers on marvellous me or by email.	Some 121 to one support would be great a few times a week . To help with topics he doesn't understand and very well
The zoom contact is helping him feel less isolated from his peers. This is the hardest thing for him as he is naturally very sociable. There are daily activities, although we don't always do them. Feedback from teacher helps and keeps him motivated.	I'm not sure. At the moment we've got into a routine that works for us. Things might change if this continues long term (ie into March and beyond). At that point, the need for more connection will come in and more teacher led sessions, would be good. Eg zoom lesson to give input for writing, share ideas, then go away to write (with camera and mic off) but teacher available on zoom if children need support. I appreciate this means buying zoom accounts as the free ones only work for 40 minutes and if teacher equipment and Internet not the best then that impacts on quality of session (videos etc don't play properly from computers of low spec or slower broadband etc). So it's all about balancing quality over quantity and also staff workloads.
The school is very supportive	Not expecting all things to be done religiously each day at a specific time. Focussing on children's writing, spelling and practical life skills would be more advantageous than some of the work set.
Story time and live lessons help them to see friends and both appreciate rewards in form of house points and headteacher awards. There is no pressure to complete all work which helps. Well-being activities also assist with this	To be given printed worksheets where needed to save the volume of printing at home
X really enjoys her regular zoom meetings. This ensures our routine is kept on form as we normally get her literacy and maths done before this.	Longer assemblies, the last one only lasted 10 minutes. My child was extremely excited to attend but felt rather disappointed when it ended so briefly. I know it must be hard but a little more interaction (using the mute all button when necessary) might lift spirits a bit more. And maybe on a Monday morning so it empowers the children for the weeks home schooling ahead. If this is not achievable a zoom call from the class teacher on a Monday morning will be a good alternative.

Loves the zoom calls and the interaction with the friends she's not able to see physically	Working with teachers on zoom classes or even pre- recorded for core subjects. Teachers can explain in a way parents can't.
Zoom calls with class once a day good for her to see friends. Teacher always sends a joke with the work which she enjoys	Yes actual zoom lessons where my children will have to listen, concentrate and do as the teacher says. Not cry and moan when I ask them to do work that they don't want to do.
The zoom story each day is great so they can see I each other	More teaching videos from teacher (and TA?) as these always go down well!
Brilliant communication with teachers, understanding of any struggles, and amazing support from all the staff	Maybe more face to face lessons? Thanks for everything.
The daily zoom story times, being able to see their friends and say hello. The instant feedback to all work submitted, so positive and personalised. The addition of well-being activities as well as creative/practical activities to the daily work. Being able to choose reading books!! Social media and class blogs to see their work and their friends work. The addition of assemblies on Fridays is awesome!	More zoom classes where possible - my child definitely reacts differently to the teacher to us trying to teach her
You are doing a fab job	Print out workbooks for English and maths would be a lot easier for us as a family. More 2 do activities less email and downloads.
Don't see how much more you could do as doing so much as it is! The outdoor library and hand delivering books is the icing on the cake as we missed access to books in the last lockdown. Thank you!	Lessons via zoom with their teachers would be brilliant.
Great job by the teachers I salute you.	I think that more live learning would be hugely beneficial. I think that direct feedback would be a big help to motivate the children as MM tends to be via a parent
Fun activities to do for end of each day and zoom story with teacher and class	Don't be concerned if they don't complete their school work
Feel that the school are doing an amazing job and working hard enough. We are sent more than enough work and have great communication with the teachers. Now we have books to read the school have gone above and beyond to support us at home.	It would be great to have a few more activities online e.g. lessons, a fun quiz each week, assembly
We are happy with the school support maybe a few more zoom lessons if possible.	
We very much appreciate all the time, effort and thought Mr Hart puts into the online learning X has been receiving. Thank you!	
Not that I can think of. They're doing a marvellous job!	

I think you're all doing a great job and not sure there is anything physically possible that you could do additionally Thank you again for all your hard work at bps and to Mrs Ferris we are so lucky to have her as X's teacher during this time - her cheery voice and enthusiasm really help and her planning if the work and how she presents it to us is great - thank you Mrs Ferris
I think the school is doing excellently.
They are very helpful and if we need anything we can email if need too
You are doing all you can for us
No, doing a great job already
They do a good job and can not ask for anymore
They're doing a brilliant job in rubbish circumstances. The worst bit as a parent is juggling it all and feeling like you're not quite managing to do anything very well but that's not the teachers fault!
No- the support has been phenomenal. It is very difficult but made a lot easier by the manner in which it is being organised and run. Shout out to Mrs Goodall (and no doubt lots of others behind the scenes) who also help everything to run so smoothly.
The school have been fantastic in these challenging times
It's good that you send links and things to support learning this time gives us a much better understanding as parents
I think your all doing an amazing job thank you so much
No, doing a brilliant job
Zoom lessons are the best!
I don't think we could ask for any more! You're all doing so much. When we have needed support, teachers have done 121 calls. When we have needed printing, you have delivered! We get instant feedback! It's been like a lifeline and we feel so supported! VERY PROUD to have such a caring, creative school! THANK YOU!

