



# Newsletter

14.06.19

## Recently at Greenfields...

What a difference in the weather! Last week we were loving the sunshine and blue skies, and this week they have all disappeared! Fingers crossed for their swift return. This time last year was the long heatwave; I recall doing phonics checks in 30 degree heat – this year I'm back in my winter wardrobe! Luckily Reception managed to squeeze their reward trip for their 4 weeks of 100% attendance into the first week back. You can see from the boys faces in the picture above what a fun time they had. 4 weeks consecutive attendance by a whole class is a phenomenal achievement – one I have never had before, and in fact Reception were only short by 1 day of achieving 100% attendance for an entire half term. As a school our attendance for last half term was 97%. Thank you so much for supporting our drive to improve in this area. Please check out the app for other photos of the Reception trip.

SATs seem like a distant memory, and we await the results eagerly for Year 6. Our data for year 2 and Reception has been externally checked by Hertfordshire, and we will share this with you when we are allowed. Next week the rest of the school will be completing their end of year assessments. Please do not worry about these, they are purely for our internal data. Of course you will know the results with their end of year reports which will be sent home on the 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you to all parents who attended our curriculum evening in the last week of last half term. It was very interesting to hear your ideas and views. For those unable to attend, we discussed what we want the children to learn

as well the ideals and values we want to cultivate in them. Many skills were those we simply cannot teach in school; hoovering, using the dishwasher etc, but we will work with you on attitudes such as appreciation and respect. From these discussions I am proposing a 'Greenfields Passport for Life' which would look at basic life skills which the children can work on at home and in school to achieve. I will send out another survey via the app soon and look forward to your responses.

I cannot believe we have 5 weeks left before the end of the year. As always in every school, these last few weeks are hectic to say the least. Please do check the diary section and watch out for reminders via the app. Also, check out class doorways for specific information about your classes. I am also in the final stages of securing all our September clubs for after school, so please do keep an eye out for this information. As promised, there is a club every night and some new ones to test the field. We are also offering a few lunch time clubs which require payment in addition to the ones staff run. Please let me know what you think.

Please see later in the newsletter for the breakdown of our parent survey. It made interesting reading.

*Kate Day*

# Attendance

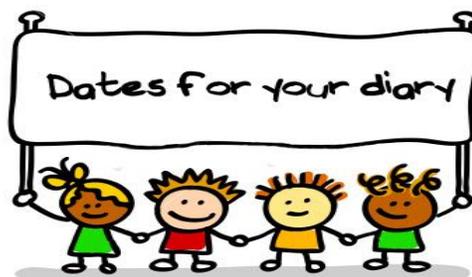


Nursery	96%
Reception	88%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	85%
Year 5	98%
Year 6	99%
School for week 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> June	94%

So many children continue to have personal 100% attendance and are getting their names in the draw for the end of term prizes. What has brought our attendance down is the number of families taking extended holidays from the half term. All holiday in term time is unauthorised unless in exceptional circumstances. This is the demand from the Department of Education and not my own. Please remember that the expectation for school is 96% attendance. Any child having poor attendance can incur a fine if holiday is taken worsening their attendance. In addition to this, meetings are held termly with families where attendance continues to be a problem.

With so much going on and so much fun to be had in school in this term, I really do hope that attendance improves as the children really do not want to miss the fun activities planned. Please support them and us by getting the children into school, and on time.

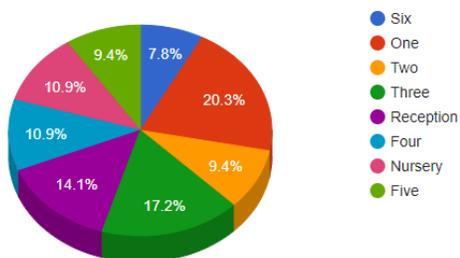
It begins to get exceptionally busy this time of year. I have tried to include everything I can. Please make note of all the dates you need.



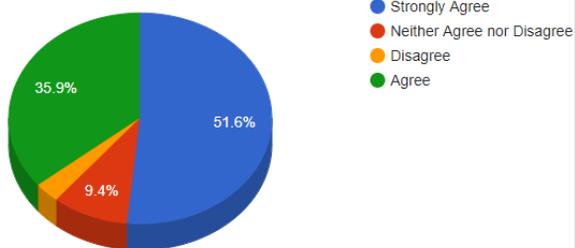
17-21.6.19	ASSESSMENT WEEK
20.6.19	Year 2 sharing assembly NON UNIFORM DAY – FOGS – Tombola items
24.6.19	Year 6 Production Week
25.6.19	New Nursery trial morning
26.6.19	NON UNIFORM DAY – FOGS – £1 Year 6 Production to parents with young children
27.6.19	Year 1 trip to the Zoo Year 6 Production shows to parents 2pm and 6pm
1-5.7.19	Year 6 School Journey - Tolmers
4.7.19	Year 1 sharing assembly
7.7.19	SUMMER FAIR 12-3pm
8.7.19	Sports Week
9.7.19	Sports Day All parents welcome all day at any point from 10.30am Team building activities 10.30am – 12 Picnic lunch 12-1.15pm – all welcome Races 1.30pm – 3pm
10.7.19	Year 2/3 trip to the Roald Dahl Museum 11+ Tuition meeting for years 3/4/5 parents 2.45pm
11.7.19	Reception sharing assembly Transition Day Collect children from their new classes
15.7.19	Reports
16.7.19	Sports Day reserve date(details as above) Music Concert assembly featuring year 2-4 gam
17.7.19	Open Afternoon Art Exhibition
18.7.19	Nursery sharing assembly
19.7.19	End of Term Year 6 Sharing Assembly <b>School Closes 1.15pm</b>
2.9.19	Training Day
3.9.19	Training Day
4.9.19	Autumn Term Starts 8.50am

# Survey Responses

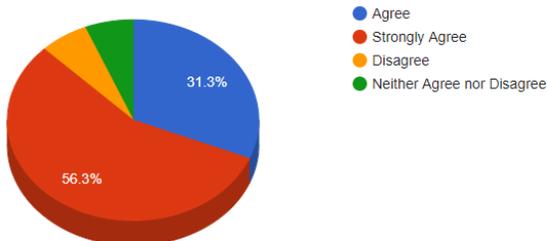
Results as a chart: My child is in year



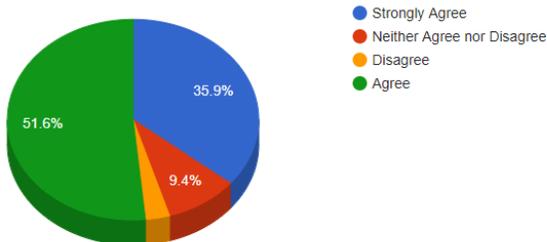
Results as a chart: My child is happy at Greenfields.



Results as a chart: My child feels safe at Greenfields.



Results as a chart: My child makes good progress at Greenfields.



Thank you to all those parents who took the time to respond to our recent survey. As a visual learner – I thought I would share the responses in pie chart form as I find them easier to read like that. The questions are taken from the Ofsted Parent View survey that I am sure many of you recognised from the visit this time last year. As a new head, I wanted to see how well you thought Greenfields was doing, and also to ask you where we are still falling short of your expectations. Some year groups responded strongly, and others not so much, so I will be looking into what we can do to better engage with you.

**Statement: My child is happy at Greenfields.**

Response: 87.5% agree

9.4% neither agree nor disagree

3.1% disagree

Comment: For those parents who do not think their child is happy, please come and speak to us to see what we can do to support your child. Is it friendship issues, is it work? Until we know, we are a bit stuck in knowing how to help.

**Statement: My child feels safe at Greenfields.**

Response: 87.6% agree

6.3% neither agree nor disagree

6.3% disagree

Comment: We have had new gates which mean strangers cannot just walk onto site. We have a new safeguarding system so visitors are recorded and have to wear badges. All staff by law have safeguarding training. Please let me know what else I can do to make your child feel safe.

**Statement: My child makes good progress**

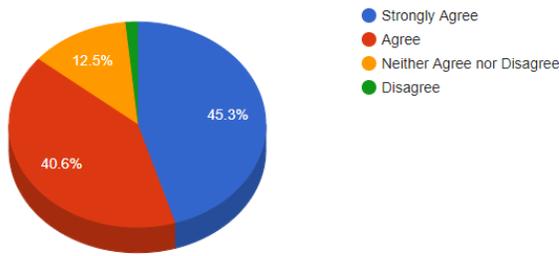
Response: 87.5% agree

9.4% neither agree nor disagree

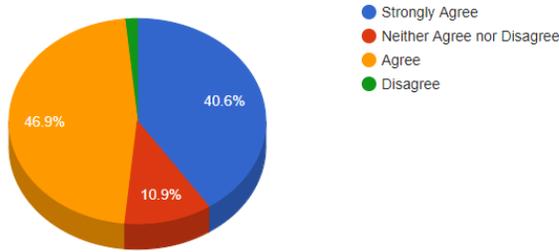
3.1% disagree

Comment: Each term we check the progress being made in rigorous discussions with the class teacher and with our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner. Children are then targeted and supported with individual programs in class. Not all children make level progress and we do what we can to support them. We will look at how we communicate this with you so you know how to help too.

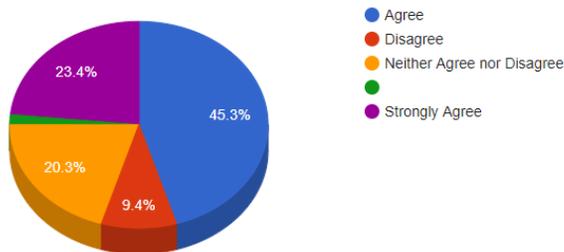
Results as a chart: My child is well looked after and valued at Greenfields.



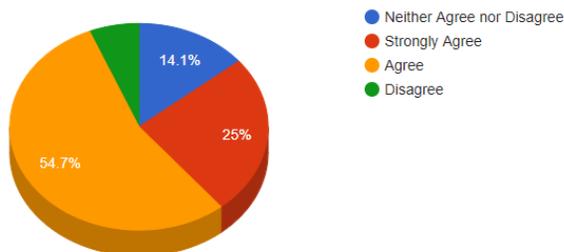
Results as a chart: My child is taught well at Greenfields.



Results as a chart: My child receives age appropriate homework.



Results as a chart: Greenfields makes sure it's pupils are well behaved.



**Statement: My child is well looked after and valued at Greenfields**

Response: 85.9% agree  
 12.5% neither agree nor disagree  
 1.6% disagree

Comment: We are continuing to work on our values of honesty, empathy, aspiration, respect and team. These lessons come through our assemblies and PSHE curriculum. With our new curriculum this theme came up a lot from parents, so we have built it in to embed these qualities even more.

**Statement: My child is taught well at Greenfields.**

Response: 87.5% agree  
 10.9% neither agree nor disagree  
 1.6% disagree

Comment: Only one person disagreed with this statement, so I feel positive that as we continue to drive our teaching and learning improvements forward, this percentage will increase. In our recent Hertfordshire inspections, 90% of lessons were of a good standard. This is much better than this time last year.

**Statement: My child receives appropriate homework**

Response: 68.7% agree  
 20.3% neither agree nor disagree  
 11% disagree

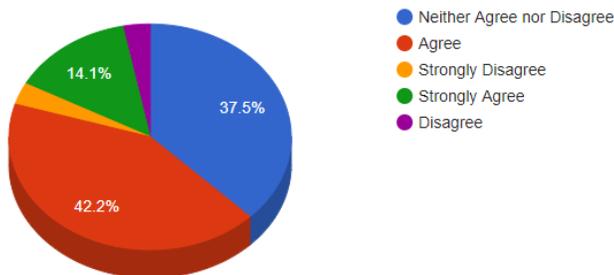
Comment: Every child is expected to read at least 5 times a week for a minimum of 10 minutes and has spellings. Every class also gives some math homework and some English homework each week – but these do vary; some are electronic, some are talking homeworks. If you are not getting homework, please check with your child's class teacher. If you feel this is too much homework, please do come and chat to me.

**Statement: Greenfields makes sure it's pupils are well behaved.**

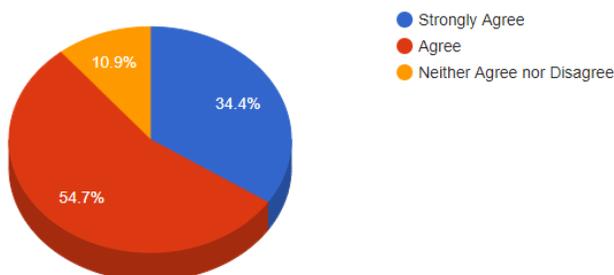
Response: 79.7% agree  
 14.1% neither agree nor disagree  
 6.2% disagree

Comment: I appreciate behavior is not always excellent, but we are working with those pupils who find this hard. It takes time to make a difference. Please support by modelling our expectations at home too.

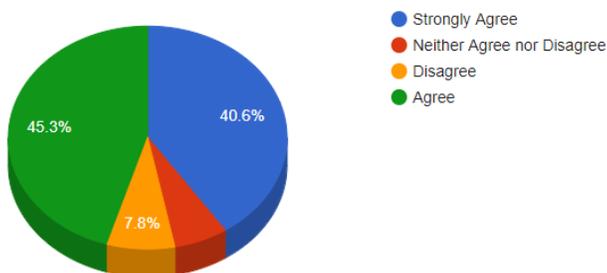
Results as a chart: Greenfields deals effectively with bullying.



Results as a chart: Greenfields is well led and managed.



Results as a chart: I would recommend Greenfields to another parent.



**Statement: Greenfields deals effectively with bullying.**

Response: 56.3% agree  
 37.5% neither agree nor disagree  
 6.2% disagree

Comment: Interestingly, at our Safeguarding audit this week in the student interviews no child said bullying was an issue at Greenfields, and every child said that behavior was tackled and managed by the senior leaders. I would be a fool to say it doesn't happen at Greenfields, but I do want you to know that your children see that we do not allow it, it is dealt with. I'm hoping the low agree percentage is the large number who didn't go one way or the other...

**Statement: Greenfields is well led and managed.**

Response: 89.1% agree  
 10.9% neither agree nor disagree

Comment: Wow! I am pleased you feel this. I now vow to get that 10.9% on side. We are working very hard together for the benefit of your children to get the school back to where it deserves to be, and more importantly, where your children deserve it to be.

**Statement: I would recommend Greenfields to another parent.**

Response: 85.9% agree  
 6.3% neither agree nor disagree  
 7.8% disagree

Comment: Again, I really pleased so many of you endorse us. We continue to improve and push forward. I hope you can all see the changes.

The most negatives in the comments section were about the state of the buildings. I agree with you – they need improving. This is why the governors and myself are working with Hertfordshire County to make changes. The money needed to improve the school building itself does not come from us, but from County, and with a Grade II status, it is actually really hard to make any changes as they have to be authorised by Historic England. We know that this financial year we will have all of our external windows and doors replaced, which will make a huge difference to the look of the school. We are also having a new boiler system put in which will make yet another difference. However, in all this, our hands are tied as to when these changes happen. There is no point redecorating until the changes, due to the mess they will make. The money I do have I am spending on modernising our computers and the ICT equipment this year. We cannot do everything at once -budgets just do not allow!

Five parents responded that we should bring back Stay and Play. As I explained in March, Stay and Play needs to be financially viable. Running Stay and Play each night cost the school in excess of £25, and so for 5 children we would need to charge at least £5, which no-one in the survey I sent out was prepared to pay. We do have clubs run every night after school through a range of different providers, and as I have already explained I am in the process of sorting out next year's offering. We do offer Artclub and Computer Club ourselves. To run a cookery club we would have to charge for the ingredients as well as the staffing which would make this club on average £8 a session. I have spoken to external providers who charge £10 a session for a cookery school, and I thought this was too expensive – especially signing up for a 12 week term. We do not have a trampoline and the risk assessment and insurance for this would be astronomical. We do already have an art club.

A new homework policy has been written and ratified by the governors – I was waiting until September to roll it out. As I have said many times before, we expect all children to read 5 nights a week, practise spellings and do timestables (where appropriate). In the policy it sets our expectations for each year group. I will be checking with staff to ensure they set the homework as per the policy. Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Some parents said of their desire for better equipment on the playgrounds. Without spoiling the surprise for the children, all I can say is – watch this space! In addition to that there are now 2 sheds on each playground to house new playtime equipment and Mrs May is ordering new toys for the children to use. This does come with an expectation for the children that they will look after the new equipment. I am also using some donated money to purchase new resources for the Before School Club as I appreciate that these need modernising too.

Several parents raised the issue of challenging the children. This is something I have been saying to staff since my first day. However, this also goes two ways – we need to stop doing things for the children and 'spoonfeeding' them. I am amazed at how many children sit waiting for answers to just be told rather than think and make the links themselves. I hope together, we can make the children more independent and aspirational, but this will take time.

There were a few comments regarding behaviour, and I am hoping those parents already called into school will vouch for the fact that I do take behaviour very seriously. If I receive a complaint about behaviour I will deal with it – again all the children spoken to this week told the inspector

that bad behaviour was dealt with. Sometimes though it is hard to understand that what you or I expect for our children just does not work for others. I have to support and nurture all children to reach their potential, and for everyone this needs to be done in different ways. A telling off may work for your child, it may make the situation worse for another. Just because the children do not see that 'telling off' does not mean it did not happen. Those parents who have sat in my office I think would prefer not to have been spoken to in front of a crowd, and the same goes for the children.

There were many positive comments too, and I would like to thank everybody who left a comment as all will help me to drive Greenfields forward. I will leave you with some that made me smile:

- I am really happy with the start of my sons education at Greenfields. He loves coming to school and has learnt so much in nursery already!
- I would just like to mention Mrs Fernando and say what a wonderful teacher she is and I am so impressed with how well my son has been taught and has improved over the year! Will be sad to lose her next year.
- Having had problems last year it is clear improvements are being made...
- I am totally happy with Greenfields.
- Have no issue with Greenfields, it's a great friendly school.
- My child enjoys the nursery very much. Great teaching and learning progress.
- I'm pleased with the changes to the school this year and can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings.
- It's getting better every day!