

## ELMSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

### PARENTAL SURVEY FINDINGS – SEPTEMBER, 2010

In 2009 a small group of parents, including a parent governor, put together a survey posing a series of questions that they would like to see asked. (The findings are still available on our school website). Instead of the school posing the questions, we thought it would be interesting to look at the findings of a survey, structured from the parental point of view. For September, 2010, we repeated this survey, but with some amended and new questions. Your comments are valued and the more we receive, each year, the more meaningful are the findings. Last year 37 families, representing 23% of the school population, returned the survey forms. This year the total was 54 families, representing 37% of the school population – an encouraging increase. Not all questions were given a tick, hence not all columns add up to 54. Many thanks!

C.A. Middleditch (Head Teacher)

| Please score 5 for the most positive response and 1 for the least positive, with any comments added at the end. |   | < Positive          Negative > |    |    |    |   | N/A |
|---|---|--------------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| No:   | Question:   | 5                              | 4  | 3  | 2  | 1 | N/A |
| 1   | Is your child generally happy at school?  | 29                             | 19 | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0   |
| 2   | Are you generally happy with the school?  | 17                             | 29 | 6  | 1  | 1 | 0   |
| 3   | Is your child generally interested in the work at school?   | 24                             | 21 | 8  | 1  | 0 | 0   |
| 4   | Does your child take the opportunity to join after school clubs?  | 17                             | 12 | 9  | 2  | 6 | 8   |
| 5   | Do you feel your child is benefiting from their homework?   | 12                             | 14 | 17 | 5  | 1 | 5   |
| 6   | Do you feel confident in supporting your child with their homework?   | 23                             | 17 | 4  | 0  | 4 | 6   |
| 7   | Does your child ever worry about tests?   | 8                              | 7  | 10 | 5  | 8 | 16  |
| 8   | Is your child heard to read enough by an adult at school?   | 5                              | 15 | 15 | 15 | 4 | 1   |
| 9   | Do you share books at home with your child just for pleasure <b>regularly</b> each week?  | 37                             | 9  | 7  | 1  | 0 | 0   |
| 10  | Does your child feel they are doing well academically at school?  | 18                             | 14 | 13 | 4  | 0 | 4   |
| 11  | If your child is in the AfA Project, do you feel that it is benefitting them?   | 3                              | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 51  |
| 12  | If your child is in the AfA Project, and you have already attended structured conversation meetings, have you found these a positive step forward in communication. | 3                              | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 51  |

| <b>Please score 5 for the most positive response and 1 for the least positive, with any comments added at the end.</b> |  | <b>5</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>N/A</b> |
|--|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| 13   | If your child is part of the KS2 1:1 Tuition Programme do you feel that it is benefitting them?  | 5        | 2        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 45         |
| 14   | Does your child have a good relationship with their teacher? (So early in the term it might be easier to refer to the last academic year). | 30       | 18       | 5        | 1        | 0        | 0          |
| 15   | Do you have a good relationship with your child's teacher?   | 22       | 20       | 9        | 2        | 1        | 0          |
| 16   | Have you ever helped in school?  | 26       | 4        | 3        | 3        | 12       | 6          |
| 17   | Have you ever helped with a school fundraising event – such as the Fete, jumble sale etc?  | 23       | 6        | 6        | 2        | 9        | 8          |
| 18   | Do you think the parking around the school is safe?  | 2        | 3        | 16       | 15       | 18       | 0          |
| 19   | Has your child have any current concerns about bullying? If so, have these concerns been dealt with effectively?                           | 5        | 5        | 6        | 4        | 4        | 30         |
| 20   | Have you found the Parent-Mail texting service helpful? e.g. notification of school closure because of snow.                               | 32       | 9        | 6        | 1        | 3        | 3          |
| 21   | Do you feel the school exercises good judgement when your child is not feeling well during the day?  | 19       | 15       | 12       | 1        | 0        | 7          |
| 22   | If you use the website on a regular basis how helpful is it in providing information about the school?                                     | 14       | 13       | 17       | 4        | 1        | 5          |
| 23   | If you have received an Achievement Text how encouraging did you find it?  | 15       | 1        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 37         |
| 24   | How does your child respond to using E-Folio at home?  | 5        | 11       | 10       | 5        | 6        | 17         |
| 25   | How informative were the 2010 end of year reports?   | 25       | 19       | 5        | 3        | 0        | 2          |
| 26   | How happy are you with the balance between the number of school trips each year to the actual cost?  | 19       | 14       | 13       | 1        | 1        | 6          |
| 27   | Did your child benefit from the school trips they took part in, over the last academic year?   | 24       | 15       | 9        | 2        | 0        | 4          |
| 28   | How much of an improvement are the new office facilities?  | 27       | 15       | 7        | 2        | 0        | 3          |
| 29   | Do you feel that the school is now more secure now, with a separate entrance lobby?  | 36       | 13       | 3        | 0        | 1        | 0          |
| 30   | Do feel, overall that the school premises are a safe place for the children to be?   | 35       | 15       | 3        | 0        | 0        | 0          |
| 31   | Generally, are you happy with the school meal menu?  | 16       | 16       | 9        | 2        | 7        | 4          |

**A brief summary of some of the key comments added:**

- Staff are friendly and approachable.
- Please bring back the outdoor chessboard, for Years 3 to 4. **(This has been added to our jobs list).**
- Establishing a comfortable learning environment for children is fundamental to educational success and Elmstead Primary School is outstanding in this respect!
- Important that water bottles are always accessible to the children. **(We will monitor this carefully).**
- Children should be heard to read more regularly.
- I worry that those in the 'middle' are sometimes overlooked and need extra help to push them on.
- 1:1 Tuition is brilliant, particularly for supporting those children in the 'middle' range of ability.
- Communicate with all parents on a 1:1 basis so we know what is going on at all times.
- Should not assume that every child has access to a computer at home to research homework.
- School reports are comprehensive and informative.
- The parking along Holly Way is terrible at school drop off and collection times.
- The added security provided by the new office block is welcome, but can give the feeling that staff members are less accessible.
- I am looking forward to a new cook taking over as the standard of school meals was not always high.
- My children did not like late changes to the menu, which happened last term.
- For some families both parents work and attending meetings before 18.00 can be very difficult. **(During the recent parents' evenings appointments were available up until 19.30).**

**NOTE:** There were a number of comments about effective communication, between home and school, but with a long established weekly newsletter – e-mailed to parents, accessible on the website, and also available in paper format – there is not much more that can be done in this area. We can only attempt to publish as much information as possible, particularly in respect to early notification of events, such as parents' meetings, Christmas shoes etc. etc.