



Thorner's Church of England VA Primary School
Parent Questionnaire



12 of our 57 families (21%) returned the questionnaires – thank you.

	(please tick)	Agree	Mostly agree	Disagree	Comments
1	My child is happy at this school.	11	1		I think what makes our child (and us) feel really grateful is that he feels fundamentally liked and supported by the staff, even when he's got something wrong or misjudged something, and that helps him to respect other people and respect himself. We feel that the school genuinely cares about the children as individuals, and I think that's the best way of helping them to become secure, independent and compassionate little adults. My child is very happy at the school but has some negative reactions to the Zoom sessions which can leave them introverted afterwards sometimes. This is peculiar to our current circumstances and can happen after any video call. The calls are much easier to follow when the entire class is muted while the teacher is talking.
2	My child feels safe at this school.	12			
3	This school ensures my child is well looked after.	12			The school makes sure our child is looked after in the best and widest sense!
4	My child is making good progress at this school.	10	2		I think they are making good progress but it would be good to know at what level they are expected to be by the end of the year as we are aware there is a big leap from Reception to Year 1.

5	This school meets my child's particular needs.	12			
6	My child is taught well at this school.	12			
7	This school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.	11	1		
8	Through its ethos and assemblies, this school helps my child to develop values for life.	11	1		Completely agree – all the support staff do a brilliant job too – Marion is completely amazing and a hero on our terrace!
9	There is a good standard of behaviour at this school.	12			
10	This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively.	9	1		Can't comment – no experience of this yet Can't comment as haven't come across any
11	This school helps me to support my child's learning.	12			
12	This school gives my child appropriate homework for their age.	11			Have only experienced remote learning so far
13	This school responds well to my concerns.	12			
14	This school keeps me well informed eg through regular emails, newsletters and the website.	12			My partner is often missed out on the group emails.
15	This school is well led and managed.	12			Extremely so!
16	This school provides a wide range of extra curricular activities (sports, clubs, music etc).	12			But not at the moment☹ As is possible given Covid. Once restrictions lift more sports clubs please eg running

(Please see over)

	(please tick)	Agree	Mostly agree	Disagree	Comments
17	My child benefits from the school's extensive facilities such as a Discovery Area, swimming pool and tennis court.	11	1		My child only started at Thorner's on 5/1/21 so hasn't experienced these yet! We are sure these will be a big benefit. We are very grateful to be a part of the Forest School and hope it can continue. I feel that the older children could benefit from more regular outdoor/forest school lessons. I am sure Our child will do once covid restrictions lift
18	The COVID arrangements in place in school during the Autumn term were appropriate, well-organised and well communicated to parents.	11			Well done to all for adapting so quickly. My child wasn't at Thorner's in the Autumn Term! I was particularly impressed by the swift implementation of before school catch up groups that were offered throughout the school. Many thanks for being so organised. Yes, a lot better than in Spring/Summer. It would be amazing if each child could have a 1:1 with their teacher as on zoom some struggle to get heard and an opportunity to share how they are think they are doing
19	The Remote Learning offered by school during the 2021 lockdown is appropriate, varied and stimulating.	12			Cannot fault it. Well done to you all. Strongly agree! Far better than other schools. We're so impressed with all the effort that everyone has made - thank you so much. We were very impressed with the immediate provision of home learning and particularly zoom calls, which have been very successful in our house.
20	I would recommend this school to another parent.		Yes	12	No

21	<p>We are always looking for ideas to make the school even better. Can you suggest improvements you would like to see?</p> <p>I have no improvements to suggest! I would say what an amazing team you have at Thorner's. Each member of staff we have had dealings with since our initial enquiries were made to move our Daughter to Thorner's have the most positive and reassuring portrayal of the school (Marion, Mike, Minty-in order of meeting!) You truly deserve to get "Outstanding" rating at your next Ofsted Assessment!</p> <p>I think we ought to have an annual 'staff day off' when the parents have to plan and deliver a timetable for a day (including support). I suspect it will make the children and parents very grateful that it doesn't happen more often.</p> <p>I would love my child to spend as much time outside as possible as I know this will be harder in Year 1 upwards.</p> <p>More opportunities for older children to make use of outdoor spaces, perhaps a lunchtime club for maintaining outdoor areas such as the discovery area?</p> <p>My only issue with the on-line learning is accessing all the lessons via emails. I've spent quite a while looking back through passed emails trying to find the link for that particular lesson. It would be useful if the kids had a portal (e.g. Class Dojo or Tapestry) or a page on the website that they could access independently and have everything in one space. I appreciate that you have told us how to create a link in our diaries, but I haven't quite got my head around that yet and it won't work if children are not always using the same device.</p> <p>Would perhaps like to see abit more commitment to sport competitions and clubs such as the running events when they had no real chance to practice and sport clubs eg football, netball, cricket that actually run on a regular basis. Overall we love the school and our kids have had/have a great time!</p> <p>Once covid restrictions lift please could the children have more space to run around at break/playtimes eg using the field behind LATCH.</p>
22	<p>The Thorner's School Association (TSA) helps to advance the education of pupils at the school by engaging in activities that support the school and by providing financial assistance. In order for them to do this they need parents to be involved both on the committee and to help with their fundraising activities. The TSA would much appreciate any involvement and help, however little.</p> <p>How could you help with their activities?</p> <p>As a parent of a child who has just joined Thorner's (January 2021!) I haven't had a chance to attend any TSA meetings/meet the team. I will be keen to offer any support needed! Would like to look into becoming an active member of TSA!</p> <p>I work quite long hours so I'm not able to do much by way of activities but I'm always happy to make donations (if the 'staff day off' gains momentum I could do a very bad lesson for year 6 in Dorset Council and local democracy).</p> <p>I am happy to volunteer to help at events.</p> <p>We are very happy to help financially and in any other way. This questionnaire is anonymous but we would be happy to respond to a message directly related to the TSA.</p> <p>Weekend activities, such as helping to maintain school grounds or volunteering for events. Donating raffle/tombola prizes.</p>

Other comments:

We moved our child to Thorners in Sept 20 from another local primary, joining year 4. The difference between the 2 schools cannot be exaggerated. Mr White is a great teacher. He quickly assessed my child's strengths/weaknesses and provides appropriate level work and great lessons. He also listened to parental feedback at parents evening regarding harder extension tasks in Maths and these were actioned- thank you.

Mr Sitch cannot be praised highly enough. The quality of the management communication and running of the school (from a parent perspective) is unsurpassed. He seems to know what is going on, about everything at all times. Parental concerns/questions etc are actioned immediately. He is also very pro-active eg our child's SALT need was picked up by school before I mentioned it. There is a definite 'can do' attitude which is in direct contrast to what we experienced previously.

Mr Sitch appears to have created a happy learning environment for the children and as parents we have no concerns at all about quality of tuition, the school etc. Well done – we are blown away!

It is worth highlighting that even in the unprecedented times the school excels. The quality of the home school provisions is in a different league to that we experienced previously. We cannot thank you enough.

The only thing I would like to add is that the school functions as part of a wider community. We as parents feel welcomed by the school and an integral part of it too, which in turn feeds back into our positive regard for the school and staff. The children pick up on our positivity regarding Thorner's and that makes them feel safe, secure and happy to be part of that community. From past experiences, I know that not all primary schools are as welcoming to parents and indeed often actively discourage any interaction apart from the 'official' channels of parent/teacher associations. It is this friendly, personal and welcoming aspect from all the school staff of Thorner's that makes it particularly special.