



# GRAYSHOTT CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Road • Grayshott • Hindhead • Surrey • GU26 6LR

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Pritchard, B.Ed. (Hons), M.A.

Telephone: 01428 605596

Email: [adminoffice@grayshott.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@grayshott.hants.sch.uk)

[www.grayshott.hants.sch.uk](http://www.grayshott.hants.sch.uk)

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

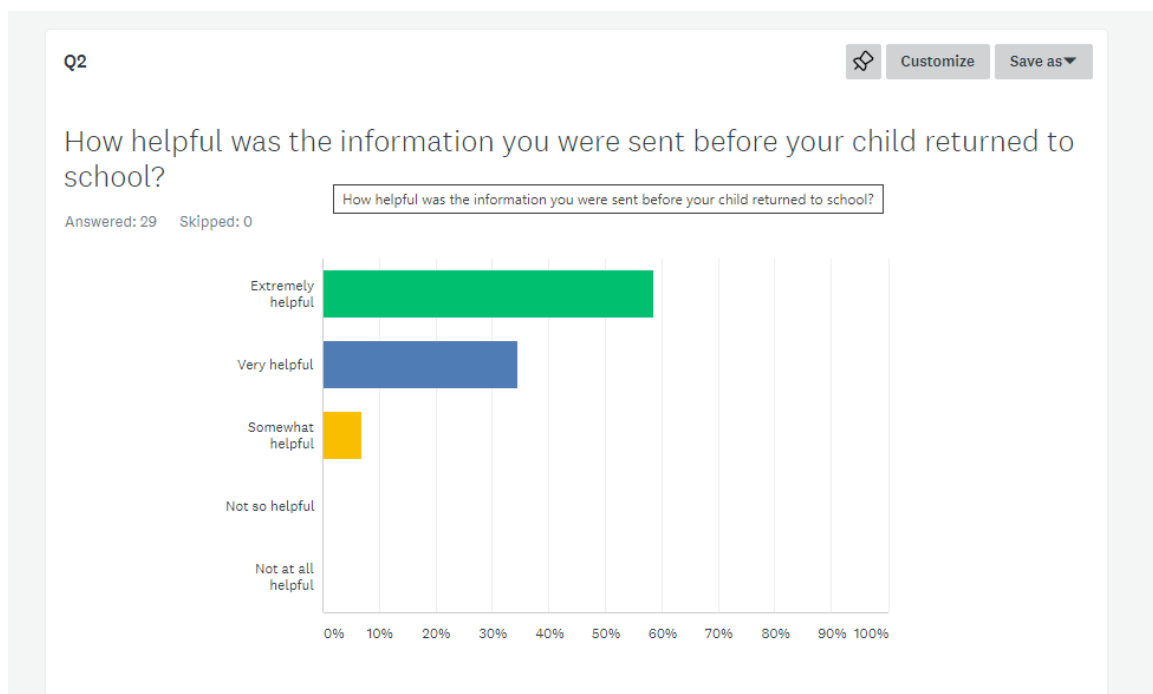
Thank you to all of you with children in Years R, 1 and 6 who have responded to the survey about your child returning to school this term. I wanted to share the results and respond to your comments.

We had 29 responses, approximately half of the families currently in school. All but one of the responses have been incredibly positive. Only one response was negative, from a parent who was unhappy about how the creation of a new YR/1 mixed group was handled.

## **Question 2: How helpful was the information you were sent before your child returned to school?**

Parents were very positive about the information sent out before children returned to school, with the majority of parents saying this was 'extremely helpful'.

"My daughter already knew exactly what to expect when she returned because we had been through the booklet together"



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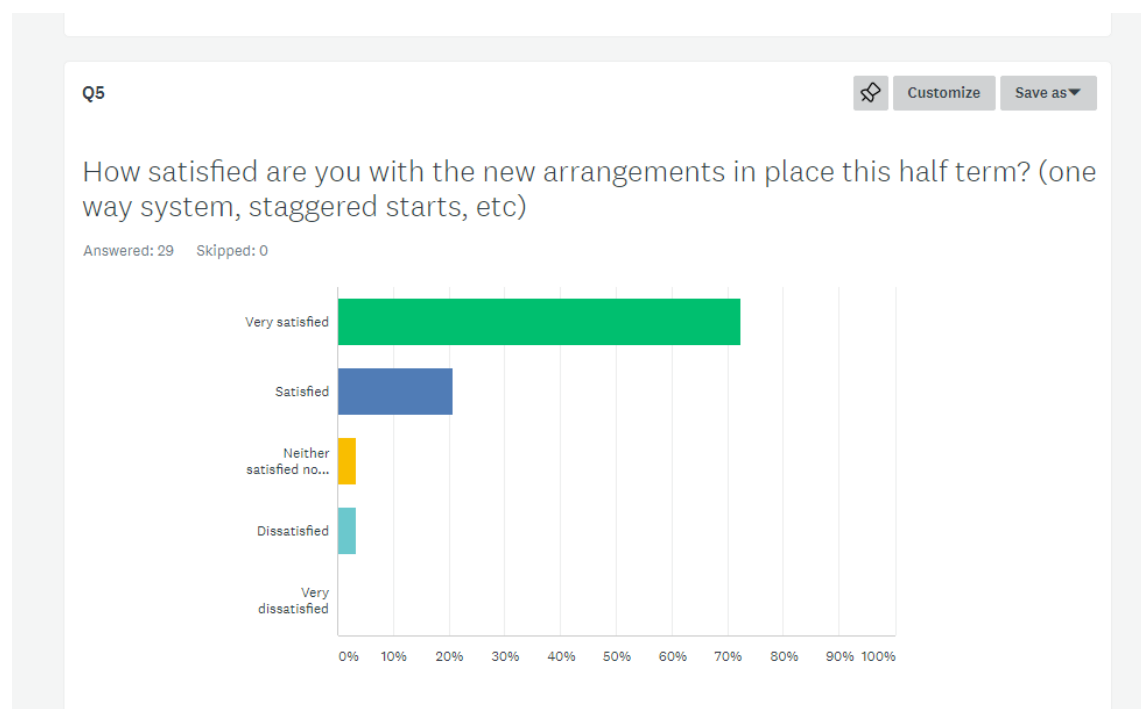
**Question 3: Is there anything else you think we could have done before your child returned to school?** No one thought that we could have done anything further in preparation of child's return to school. "No I think the school handled everything amazingly well"

**Question 4: Is there anything you think we could have done better this half term?** Again, responses were very positive with very few suggestions of things that could have been done differently. "No, things have been very well organised under such difficult circumstances."

There were 2 comments about the school dinners, which some parents felt have not been quite sufficient for Year 6 children. I agree that the lunches have not been ideal, but have been the best solution in the current circumstances. We are reviewing our lunch provision for next term as we would very much to return to our normal meals over the autumn and winter period.

One Year 6 parent felt that there was too much PE this half term. As we have not been able to implement our normal PPA arrangements CM sport takes the Year 6 groups for a whole afternoon. We have also been following government guidance in getting children outside as much as possible. Physical activity is incredibly important in ensuring good mental health which has been a priority.

A couple of parents have commented that they would have preferred it if class lessons had not followed the home learning materials. Although it was not a requirement, we have continued to provide home learning resources for those children Years R, 1 and 6 who have not returned to school. Like many schools, we have chosen to use this in school as this will help with curriculum planning in the autumn term if children have been doing similar activities. It also reduces the workload of teachers who are not planning two separate curriculum offers. Teachers in school have been able to supplement these plans and teach more creatively, which was also commented on by several parents.





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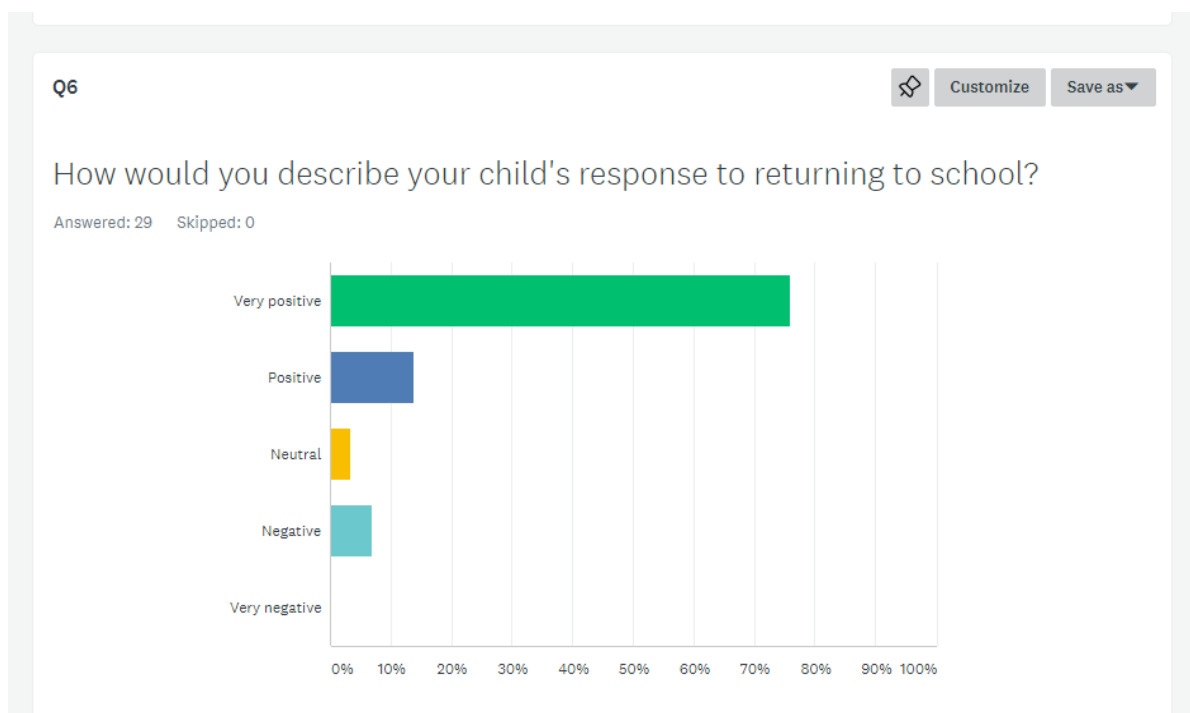
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**Question 5: How satisfied are you with the new arrangements in place this half term? (one way system, staggered starts, etc)** 72% of parents were extremely satisfied with the arrangements.

One parent commented that the staggered starts could be a bit less staggered! This is something that we are looking at for September.

A couple of parents felt that school was very organised but complained about others who do not follow the one way system or respect social distancing. After all of our hard work it is very frustrating when a very small number of parents deliberately ignore the one way system or socialise inappropriately, including outside the school gates. Unfortunately staff cannot be everywhere and it is not our role to police parents. We trust parents to understand why the new rules are in place and to follow these. We are very grateful to those parents who do follow the rules - thank you for helping us to keep your child safe.



**Question 6:** 76% of parents told us that their child had responded very positively to returning to school.



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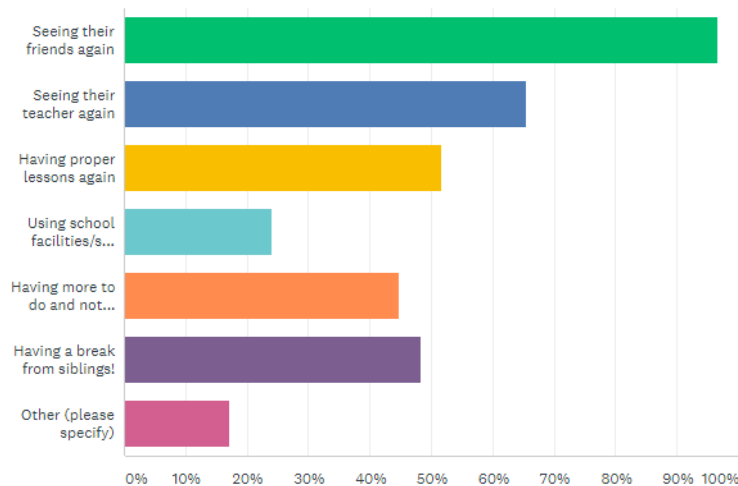


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If your child's response is positive, what have they most enjoyed about returning to school? Tick all that apply

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



**Question 7: If your child's response is positive, what have they most enjoyed about returning to school?** 97% of children enjoyed seeing friends again, and almost as many enjoyed seeing their teachers again!

**Question 8: Is there anything your child has not enjoyed about being back at school?** The vast majority of parents said that there was nothing their child did not enjoy about returning to school.

One commented about sore hands from sanitising. I know that this was a problem for some children before the school closed but it is a difficult one to avoid. Frequent handwashing is now part of our routine, but children rarely use the sanitiser. All class have hand cream which children are welcome to use and parents are welcome to send their own soap (which must be seen by office staff first).

A few Year 6 parents felt that it was a shame that children couldn't mix with the whole year group which can also cause tensions at playtime, although they understand the reasons for this. This should not be an issue going forward as our new bubbles will be the whole class. One Year 6 parents also commented on the children missing out on the usual end of term activities. This is obviously a real shame for this class but we have done other things to mark this important time, such as a class video and recreating the cathedral service at school.

**Question 9: Have you noticed any benefits from your child returning to school?** The main benefits identified by parents are that children are generally happier (63%) and more motivated to learn (59%). Having proper lessons, not being bored and having a break from siblings were also cited by a number of parents!



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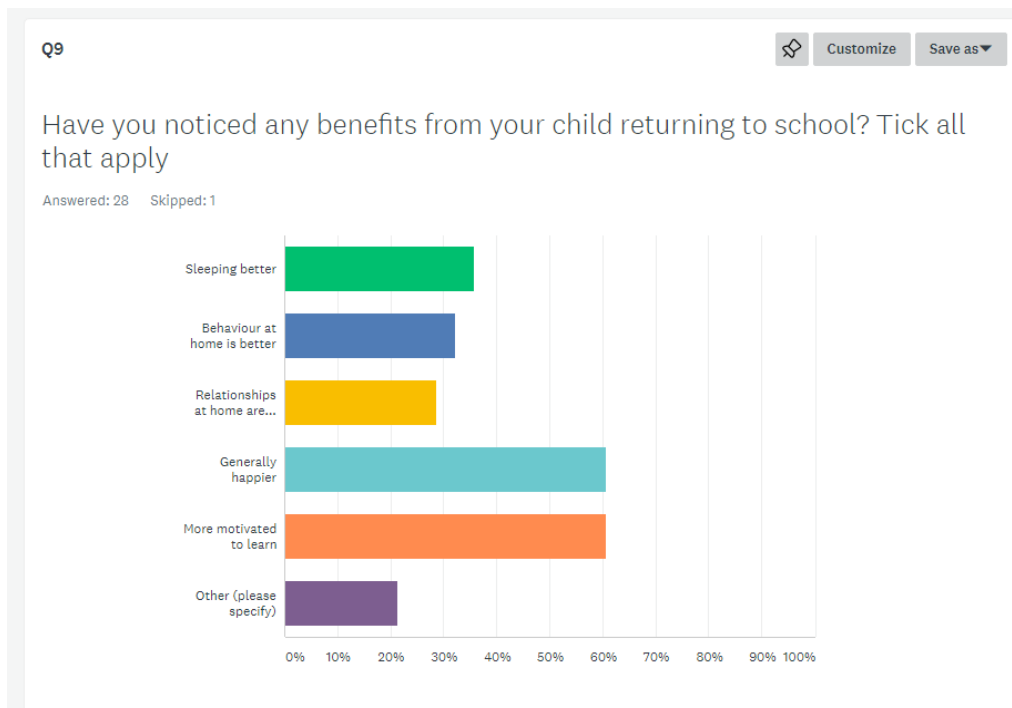
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**Question 10: Is there anything else you would like to say?** Here are all the responses where parents have given their permission for us to use them:

Fantastic response to a difficult situation. All the planning and organisation of the measures that had to be put into place cannot have been easy. We felt confident that our child would be safe and happy returning to school and feel we made the right decision for us all. He has benefitted from returning to his routine and really enjoyed the important social interaction with his peers. Thank you for all your hard work!

Great job under difficult circumstances.

Thank you very much for everything you have done to make the school a safe and happy environment. Our son has thoroughly enjoyed being back at school.

Having a child in year 1 and one in the key worker group both the children have really enjoyed being back and being able to have some kind of 'normal' back, routine and social. Although both were little unsure, information passed to us prior to their return helped to put them at ease and made the return easier as we knew what to expect.

We were very happy with the way the school handled the situation and felt there was plenty of work for them to do on the school website. We certainly never had to look for more!



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My daughter is ecstatic that she now understands maths! Not surprisingly, she is thoroughly enjoying the smaller classes :-)

My child has been absolutely beaming upon her return to school and was so excited to see her friends. The school feels like a very safe space.

Initial plans were great, restructuring classes was clearly needed but you need to think of the children's social circles and feelings on the matter.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work in supporting our children through such a difficult time.

Having my child back in school has been a positive experience all round. In particular on both our mental well being. The teachers have been brilliant and I've found the staggered drop off and pick up times have actually made the school run a lot easier.

Thank you. I have no regrets about sending my daughter back to school. She has been very happy. In the future could you look at bigger bubbles maybe R/KS1/3&4 and 5&6? Also please let the teachers teach more creativity as some kids need different teaching methods. Let's learn from this and take something positive away.

I have been so happy with two of my children returning back to school. I can not fault the way the school has organised the return. I feel my children have really benefited from smaller classes. Being back at school has not only helped their learning. It's been great for their mental health.

We are so grateful for all you've done to keep our child safe and happy in such a challenging time. He really needed the sense of normality and routine. Thank you so much.

Massive thank you to all: Headteacher, Teachers, school staff and anyone involved in this amazing project to get our kids safe back to school. Thank you!

Going back to school has been such a positive experience and I think given the challenging times we are in, the school have done everything they can to keep the children safe and continue their learning.

We have been thrilled by the positive comments and thanks expressed by parents in the survey. Thank you for your support and co-operation at this difficult time. While it has been a lot of work, it has all been worthwhile to have children happily and safely back in school.

We were very disappointed that we were not able to have all children back for a substantial amount of time this term but look forward to welcoming everyone back into the school in September. I hope that these responses will reassure everyone that while there will be a few changes in September, there are huge benefits to children returning to school and school staff will do everything possible to ensure that children are safe and happy when they return.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Pritchard