

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

"Together we will give our children
the roots to grow, and the wings to fly"

Christchurch Street East,
Frome, Somerset BA11 1QG

t: 01373 462251

w: stjohnsfrome.co.uk

e: office@stjohnsfrome.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Claire Marsland

28 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the 2022 summer term we asked you to provide feedback in the form of an online survey to let us know what is working at St John's school and what areas need improvement for the academic year 2021/22. Building on the survey conducted in [2020/2021](#), this is the second year we have asked parents and carers for their feedback.

Although there is less focus on the COVID response this year, the survey does include the 14 questions from the official Ofsted Parent View survey as well as other questions from the 2020/2021 survey. We will communicate throughout this academic year how we intend to incorporate your feedback, so that *together we give our children the roots to grow, and the wings to fly*.

Areas for improvement from the 2020/21 survey included providing clearer feedback on how children are doing and having high expectations of children in St John's. While there is still much to do, we believe we have addressed some of this feedback by hosting in person 'Stay and Learn' sessions at school for reception children, and 'Share My Work' sessions for Years 1 to 4, as well as hosting virtual parents' evenings. The new curriculum, for foundation subjects, was rolled out in 2021. It uses themes or topics to frame the learning and has allowed the children to immerse themselves in an area of study over an extended period. In the core subject areas, we have targeted our attention on increasing the level of challenge and raising children's expectations of themselves.

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to provide their feedback and thoughts and we are looking forward to building stronger relationships between parents, carers and governors in the coming academic year 2022/23. Although down on last year, we still had a good response with 131 parents and carers (50%) providing feedback on their children.

We are delighted to see that 92% of respondents would recommend St John's CE VA First School, Frome to other parents and that 98% of respondents think their child felt safe and happy at the school.

Yours faithfully,

The Governing Board



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.

Highlights

The following analysis shows the top 8 responses from the survey when 'strongly agree' and 'agree' answers were combined (over 90% of those combined responses). Last year the top three responses were – my child feels happy at school (98%); my child feels safe at school (98%) and my child is well looked after at this school (97%).



98%

Q2: My child feels safe at this school



98%

Q1: My child feels happy at this school



94%

Q12: My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school



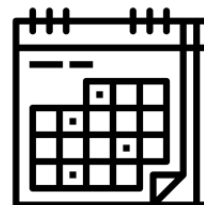
93%

Q18: My child enjoys coming to school.



92%

Q17: The school is well-led and managed.



92%

Q5: The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.



92%

Q19: I would recommend this school to another parent.



91%

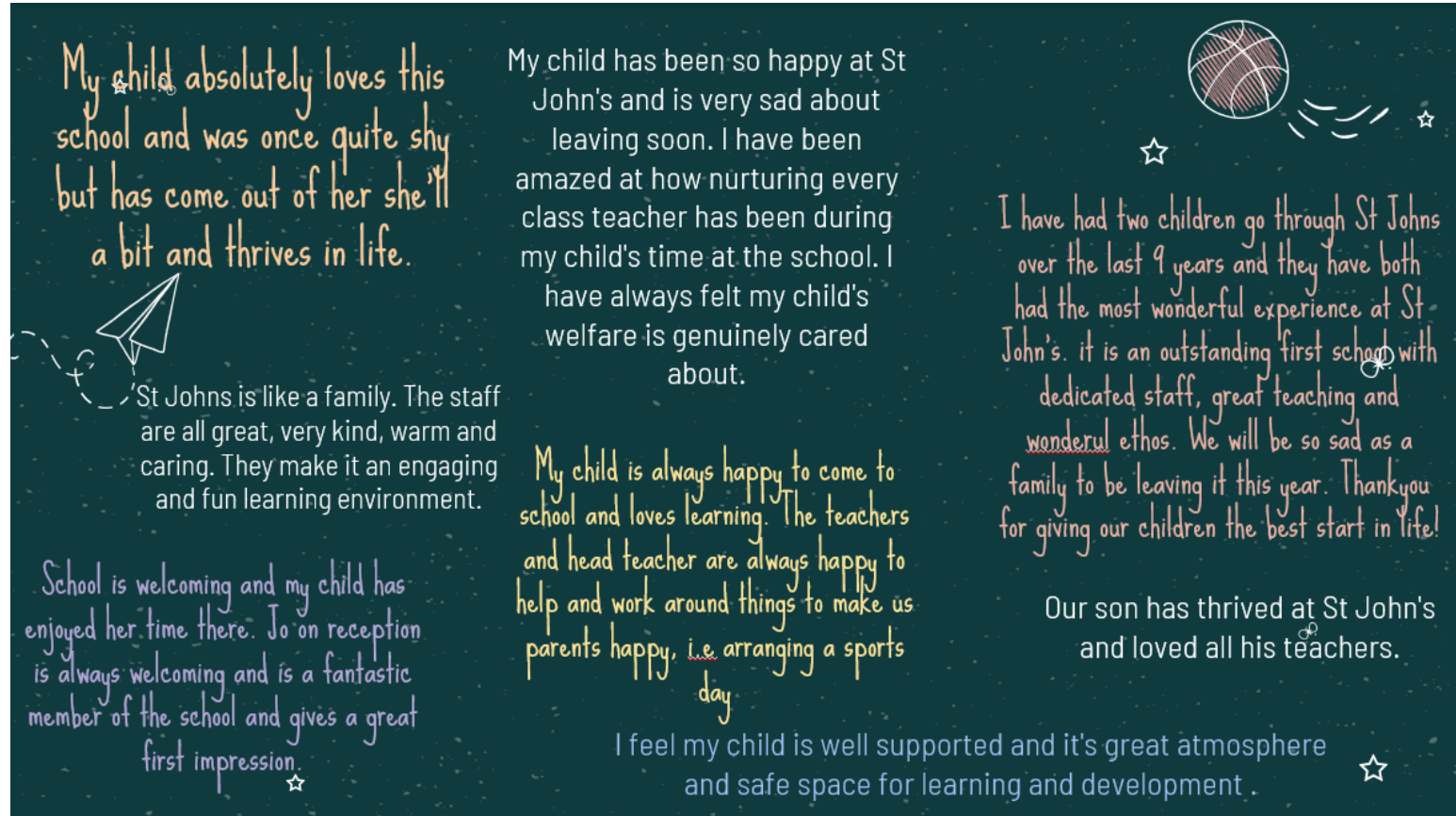
Q9: My child does well at this school.



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.

Strengths

We received additional written comments to the survey that provided positive feedback – with several responses saying special thanks to the headteacher, teachers, admin and support staff. Below is a selection of responses.



My child absolutely loves this school and was once quite shy but has come out of her she'll a bit and thrives in life.

St Johns is like a family. The staff are all great, very kind, warm and caring. They make it an engaging and fun learning environment.

School is welcoming and my child has enjoyed her time there. Jo on reception is always welcoming and is a fantastic member of the school and gives a great first impression.

My child has been so happy at St John's and is very sad about leaving soon. I have been amazed at how nurturing every class teacher has been during my child's time at the school. I have always felt my child's welfare is genuinely cared about.

My child is always happy to come to school and loves learning. The teachers and head teacher are always happy to help and work around things to make us parents happy, i.e. arranging a sports day.

I feel my child is well supported and it's great atmosphere and safe space for learning and development.

I have had two children go through St Johns over the last 9 years and they have both had the most wonderful experience at St John's. It is an outstanding first school with dedicated staff, great teaching and wonderful ethos. We will be so sad as a family to be leaving it this year. Thank you for giving our children the best start in life!

Our son has thrived at St John's and loved all his teachers.



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.

Areas for improvement

The following questions received the highest overall response when 'strongly disagree' and 'disagree' were combined.



14%

Q10. The school lets me know how my child is doing.



14%

Q14. The school gives clear feedback on how my child is doing.



9%

Q8. The school has high expectations for my child.

Comparatively, the top three response in 2020/21 were:

- The school gives clear feedback on how my child is doing (8%)
- The school has high expectations of my child (7%)
- The school is a welcoming and inclusive community that fosters and encourages family-wide participation in all aspects of school life (6%)

More needs to be done this year to provide clearer communication and feedback to parents, carers and children. The overarching written feedback was for improved, clear and timely communications from the school. Currently, there is too much information, that is not centralised making it difficult for parents to manage various means of communication. In response to this feedback the school is sending out weekly reminder emails with key dates for parents and carers and Seesaw is being used consistently across year 1-4 providing parent and carers with weekly updates on progress in the classroom.



Responses that answered 'don't know'

The following questions were the top three that received the highest responses for 'don't know'. Please note that Ofsted interprets 'Don't Know' and 'No Return' as a positive response for the school, as these responses indicate that you do not have a problem or concern with the school. However, we have decided to highlight the 'don't know' responses.



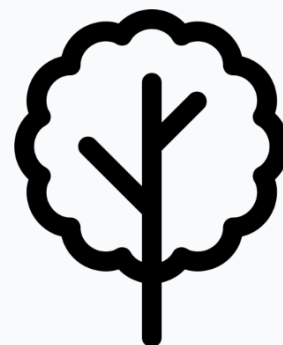
20%

Q8. The school has high expectations for my child.



17%

Q13. The school supports my child's wider personal development.



11%

16. The staff, parents and governors of St John's work together to ensure that the children are 'given the roots to grow and the wings to fly'...

Comparing the results from last academic year (2020/21) – the responses then were:

- The school has high expectations of my child (21%)
- My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school (18%) – this response featured in the top responses in this year's survey.



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.

Overview of results

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	N/A	No	Yes
1. My child is happy at this school.	56%	40%	2%	0%	1%			
2. My child feels safe at this school.	60%	37%	3%	0%	0%			
3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	27%	59%	7%	0%	7%			
4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	5%	15%	5%	1%	5%	69%		
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	41%	51%	5%	0%	3%			
6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	27%	40%	3%	2%	2%	27%		
7a. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?							85%	14%
7b. My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	5%	9%	1%	0%	3%	68%		
8. The school has high expectations for my child.	19%	53%	8%	1%	20%			
9. My child does well at this school.	37%	54%	4%	0%	5%			
10. The school lets me know how my child is doing.	25%	59%	11%	2%	4%			
11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	29%	55%	4%	2%	9%			
12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	27%	66%	2%	1%	2%			
13. The school supports my child's wider personal development.	22%	53%	7%	0%	17%			
14. The school gives clear feedback on how my child is doing.	37%	45%	11%	2%	4%			
15. The school is a welcoming and inclusive community that fosters and encourages family-wide participation in all aspects of school life.	29%	56%	8%	0%	6%			
16. The staff, parents and governors of St John's work together to ensure that the children are 'given the roots to grow and the wings to fly' - this includes aspirational learning of a broad and balanced curriculum in a nurturing environment, inclusive of all, and rooted in our distinctive Christian values.	28%	58%	2%	1%	11%			
17. The school is well-led and managed.	25%	66%	6%	2%	2%			
18. My child enjoys coming to school.	51%	42%	6%	0%	1%			
19. I would recommend this school to another parent.							5%	92%



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.