



Smithdon High School
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Re: AGi/LT

12 February 2021

Dear parents

I hope that this letter reaches you and your family in good health, looking forward to the half term break from remote learning, and having been able to enjoy the snow this week.

Thank you to everyone who completed our parental survey on remote learning - please find attached to this letter a summary of the feedback for your information. Thank you so much for the many positive comments and messages of thanks to all the staff, which we have passed on to them and were a pleasure to read. We are also pleased to be able to respond to some of the concerns you raised and to improve our remote learning with some changes starting after half term.

In particular, in response to concerns of the length and time of lunch, from Monday 22 February we will move to our 2-1-2 structure of the day, slightly reducing break and lengthening lunchtime. This means that **times of the day** will be as follows:

8.30-9.00am	Tutor Period
9.00-10.00am	Period 1
10.00-11.00am	Period 2
11.00-11.20am	BREAK
11.20-12.20pm	Period 3
12.20-1.00pm	LUNCH
1.00-2.00pm	Period 4
2.00-3.00pm	Period 5

Another concern you raised was regarding the amount of screentime students have each day, which we had already planned to address through the purchase of activity books, revision guides and workbooks for all students, so that tasks can be completed away from the screen. Disappointingly, we had to abandon our plans for **collection of the Bundle of Books** this week due to the snow, but this will now take place after half term. You will be able to collect your child's bundle of books from **Monday 22 February to Thursday 25 February, 9am-3pm**. Please note that we will be doing this in a Covid-safe way and you will only come into the Reception area of the school:

- Please ensure that you are wearing a face covering
- Please adhere to the 2m distancing at all times, including if you are queuing to come into Reception
- Please do not queue in the doorway as it will be both the entrance and exit door
- If the queue reaches the external gate, please wait in your car until the queue reduces - do not gather outside of the entrance gates/in the car park (if you have walked, please keep the 2m distance outside as well)
- Please use the hand sanitiser provided in the entrance on arrival and exit

We are so pleased with the students' engagement and attendance in the remote learning this term and the wealth of activities that they are taking part in - please look out for this half-term's newsletter with a spotlight on these and some of the fantastic achievements your children are making.

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Looking ahead to next term, which is a short 5-week term, we look forward to the government announcements regarding the reopening of school and the plans regarding mass testing of students on return to school. We also look forward to the release of information for the awarding of GCSE grades to Year 11 students. As soon as we have this, Year 11 parents will receive an invitation to an online parents' evening, where you will be invited to discuss the next steps for each subject area with your child's subject teachers. We also have a Year 9 parents' evening scheduled for Thursday 11 March 2021 to begin their Future Choices programme.

In the meantime, we hope you stay safe and well and look forward to seeing some of you soon.

Yours sincerely

A. Gibbins.

Mrs A Gibbins
Head of School

Smithdon Parental Remote Learning Survey Feedback

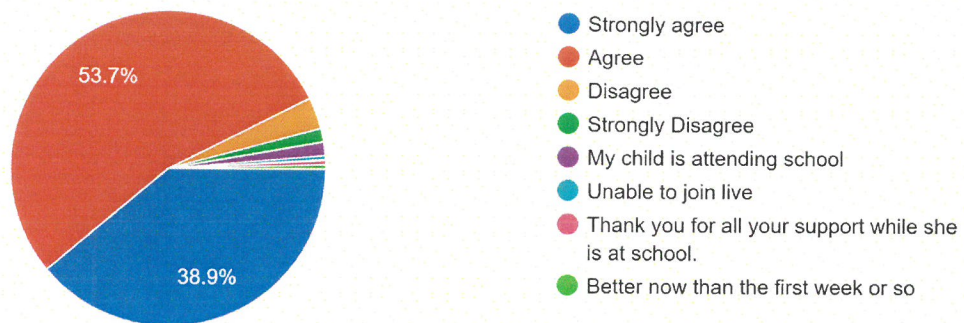
Thank you to every parent who completed this survey to help us to evaluate what is working and what needs reviewing - enabling us to continue to improve our offer to you and your children, while remote learning continues.

The parents who responded were overwhelmingly positive and where there have been repeated concerns we will address these moving forward. Where individuals raised specific concerns we have tried to make contact with everyone to address these specific issues. If you wanted a response and have not heard back from us yet, please accept my apologies and contact head@smithdonhigh.org.uk to inform us. We will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

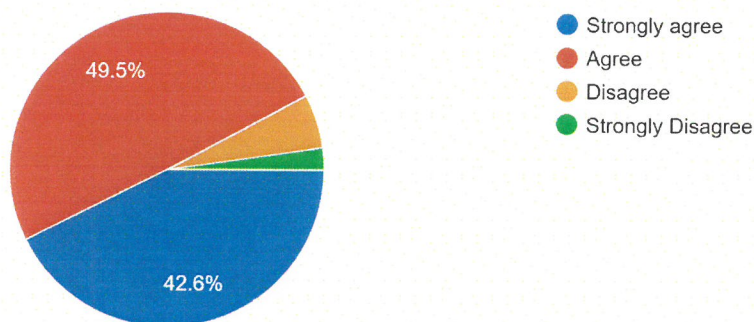
Below are a series of pie charts which summarise the simple questions - with blue being 'strongly agree' and red being 'agree'. Below these charts are a sample of comments made.

Engagement

My child is engaging well at home with the remote learning provided by the school
216 responses



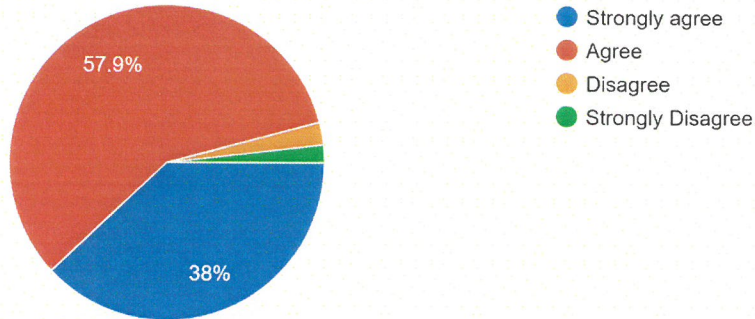
My child finds the 'live' element to lessons helpful
216 responses



Support

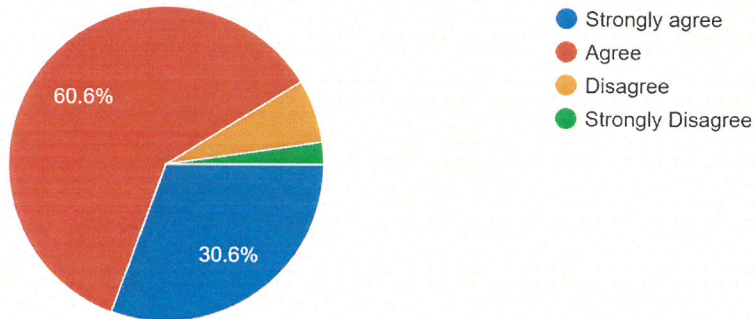
My child can access support from their teacher / teaching assistant when they have difficulties with their school work

216 responses



The school continues to provide good pastoral care to my child during this lockdown

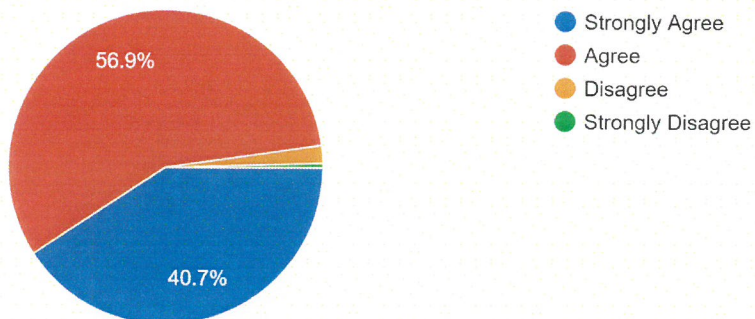
216 responses



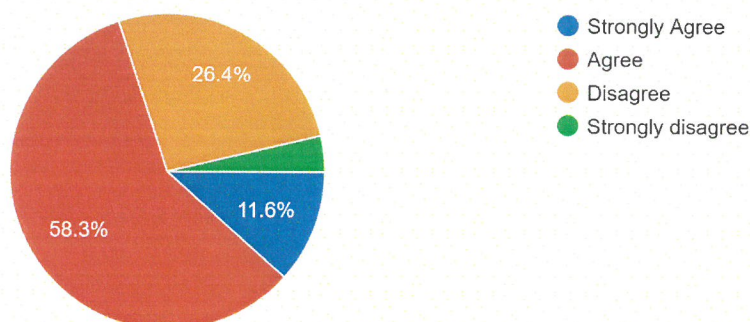
Communication

School communications about lockdown and remote learning have been helpful and timely

216 responses



My child enjoys remote school assemblies and additional 'challenge' activities/competitions
216 responses



Summary of Common Concerns:

- Lessons overrunning into the next one is an issue (one subject named a few times) and allowing for changeover, with chance to go to the toilet, etc.
- Too much screentime / needing a break away from the screen
- Lunch is very late / lunch is too short to allow for a walk

Example Positive Statements:

- Thanks to teachers and staff for all their hard work and support by over 30 parents.
- "I believe the school has adapted well"
- "I think the school should be really proud. All the lessons are really good and engaging."
- "I think the teachers have been fantastic with the support they have given my son"
- "Having listened to many of her lessons I think the teaching standard is exceptionally high"
- "I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff involved in my son's learning. I have been thoroughly impressed with the remote learning that has taken place during such a difficult time."
- "The staff have tried really hard to provide a range of relevant materials that keep the students' interest going. Feedback has been prompt and useful - this is not easy so a huge thank you to all the staff for their dedication and also for reassuring the students :)"

Also a number of positive comments about the live lessons, such as:

- "The live lessons are much better than pre-recorded lessons"
- "Live start to lessons much better to help keep a routine"
- "We are so super impressed with the time table, live lessons ... We are in awe of you all, how you are managing all this is beyond us"
- "I feel the live lessons are working very well and really appreciate this being implemented...no one can teach my child the way a teacher can."