

Nether Kellet CP Parents' Questionnaire 2023



Please tell us 2 important strengths of our school

- Identification and support of SEN, this is excellent.
- Extra-curricular opportunities - after school clubs, forest school, school trips excellent.
- It's a bit like a big family - I like that the older children know and look out for the younger ones.
- I feel that the school is a great, kind and caring environment for the children to feel safe and happy being able to learn and grow.
- I feel they excel at teaching and my daughter's development is amazing and some of the things she is learning about are so advanced and diverse which is brilliant.
- Strong leadership.
- Whole school events and opportunities for children to work with those who are younger/ older.
- All the staff are very approachable and want the best for the children.
- The great outdoor space.
- It is a comfortable and safe environment for the children to grow with clear boundaries and expectations.
- Fantastic offering of after school activity clubs giving the opportunity to try new and exciting things that wouldn't necessarily be available locally.
- The connection with parents.
- Community feel and inclusion.
- Excellent, individually differentiated teaching.
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities, clubs and trips.
- Intervention groups for children that need extra support.
- Approachable teachers and support staff.
- Outdoor/ creative activities/ trips/ gardening/ cookery/ forest school.
- Interesting topics.
- Development of the whole child.
- There is a strong focus on mathematical development with the use of online resources to continue learning at home.
- There are a variety of clubs available on most days and the provision of wrap-around care has been brilliant.
- Good communication with parents.
- Good support to the children, i.e. plans in place to support additional learning.
- Great after school clubs and activities.
- Friendly and approachable staff.
- Approachable.
- Inclusive.
- Nice teachers and other staff.
- House points system and non-uniform days.
- More relaxed uniform than some schools - there is evidence base for comfy and sporty children doing better.
- Clubs on offer and wrap-around care.
- My daughter says she likes her PE lessons.
- Balanced approach to RE.
- The range of extra-curricular clubs and activities is brilliant.
- Great opportunities to represent the school at sports competitions.
- Caring and inclusive - good relationships between different year groups.
- Small so staff know all the children.
- Genuinely care about the children both academically and mental health.
- Recognise the needs of those that require additional support.
- Friendly community school - a 'family' feel.
- Excellent wraparound care.
- Caring staff and students.
- My daughter is making good progress with reading and writing.
- Work is challenging and matched to ability.
- High expectations in terms of reading at home, etc.
- Looking after the emotional health of the children - you are always available for the children and parents for support and the children know that.

- You are consistent with teaching the children the rights and responsibilities they need to follow.
- Friendly and approachable.
- The school feels very inclusive. All the children and staff know each other and the children play and look after each other.
- I love how there is such an importance placed on reading and maths. I have been impressed with the "maths learning journeys" and how children of different ages read to each other.
- Lots of outdoor opportunities.
- Good community spirit.
- After school clubs are great - lots of variety and opportunity.
- We love this school and our children have thrived here. The children in general are exceptionally well behaved and always polite when visiting the school. The staff appear a friendly and cohesive team.
- We absolutely love the school! Both children are shy and have been very nervous but we don't see this at school so I know they feel safe, secure and happy! Thank you for all you do!
- The whole school has a lovely, inclusive atmosphere and the staff are wonderful.
- Thank you staff for all your hard work.
- The school provides a wealth of experiences with visits and visitors and the opportunity to take part in theme days and work with children throughout the whole school.
- Teachers are happy to talk about any issues. Hopefully, when funding improves, school could offer more support staff or even a learning mentor.
- Overall the school does a brilliant job.
- I like the sharing of information about other services, particularly mental health and groups for children with SEN locally.
- The breakfast and afterschool club is a wonderful addition. There has not been a single day when either of my children has not been happy to go to school.
- We are delighted that our daughter is a member of Nether Kellet. She loves school, is happy, feels safe and cared for. She is thriving at school. Thank you for all that you do. We are very pleased with the school.
- I feel a huge strength of the school is the focus on the whole child, not just their academic ability. The sports you provide for KS2 is varied and I feel this really is beneficial to the children. The difference I have observed with your school and others is that the children are really happy and the school is inviting and "fun"!

Can you think of 2 ways in which our school could be improved?

- Communication could be a little better for those not on Facebook.
- Maths Learning Journeys to be tested more frequently and resources made available to help with practising at home.
- More sports opportunities for younger children - KS2 have amazing opportunities and it would be nice to see the earlier years having a few more.
- At times, communication could be better.
- Nothing!
- Better communication - I sometimes feel not enough time is given with changes/ events etc. Some parents don't use Facebook so miss out of updates - maybe an app? I don't always receive letters/ fliers, etc.
- Not applicable.
- School dinners - the contract with BLS has been unreliable at times. The quality of meals could be much better.
- Children's home learning - sometimes we do our own thing in an evening but this sometimes mean we don't have time for core school activities.
- The continuity of music education on a weekly basis.
- Provision of adults who can encourage positive play and behaviour and dealing with emotions during lunchtimes for neurodivergent children.
- It would be really helpful if information and photos could be shared in other ways than Facebook, at the moment it feels like you might miss out if you don't have Facebook.
- Giving a little more notice for some events.
- Ensuring children always go into school in the morning on time.
- More options for paying online.
- Other methods of communication if you don't have Facebook. Especially for clubs cancelled at the last minute.
- App to enable payments.

- Communication - I appreciate trying to give children responsibility but I sometimes don't get messages. Maybe something like Class Dojo could help.
- Parking - although you are very good at encouraging parents to walk/ park safely this remains a big daily issue.
- Possibly more focus on achievements that aren't academic and more pastoral time out if my child is struggling. Perhaps more PSHE work on friendships, dealing with disputes, etc. (apologies if this is happening, but I don't know about it). Overall, I am very happy with school it's just difficult for my child as she doesn't "love" school despite school's best efforts. She struggles socially and academically however I do not blame school for this and do believe she would be the same (if not worse) at another school.
- I would like to see improvements in encouraging/ setting a good example of healthy eating e.g. changes to the lunchtime menu and changes to the snacks in Early Birds and Night Owls clubs.
- Could there be increased security for those children joining the playground in the morning from Early Birds when they join children on the playground?
- Weekly online newsletter/ bulletin.
- To help the children to be more independent, could they have coat pegs at morning and after school clubs?
- I would like better payment options for trips etc. Thank you!
- There are a lot of parents "idling" whilst waiting in their cars causing air pollution. I occasionally see poor parking from parents, however I have many times seen poor and dangerous driving from local residents - very little care when small children are around.

Please tick in the appropriate column for each question:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
My child(ren) is generally happy at school.	76%	19%			5% My child seems happy when I am I see them in school (but they say they aren't).
My child(ren) is/are making good progress at school.	76%	24%			
Children generally behave well at NK school.	71%	29%			
The school has exciting and interesting approaches to learning.	82%	14%			
My child(ren) is/are supported by staff to achieve the best that they can.	86%	9%			5%
The school is helping my child(ren) to become independent and responsible.	86%	9%			5%
Staff support my child(ren) well with any difficulties he/she/they may have.	86%	9%			5%
Staff expect my child to work hard and achieve his or her best.	81%	19%			
My child is safe and well cared for in school.	81%	19%			
My child is not bullied or harassed at school.	72%	23%	5%		
The school values children's views.	77%	23%			
The school manages behaviour well.	77%	23%			
I feel able to contact school via phone/email/in person when needed.	95%	5%			
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	66%	34%			
School encourages me to be involved with my child's home learning.	72%	23%	5%		
The school supports my child's wider personal development (using Planet Inspiration, etc.)	72%	23%			5%

School provides a good range of extra-curricular activities.	95%	5%			
The school environment is attractive, inside and out.	81%	19%			
The school has worthwhile trips and visits.	95%	5%			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
My child(ren) understand(s) they have Rights and Responsibilities as members of our school (these link to British Values and being a Global Citizen).	66%	29%			5%
I feel able to approach the school with any questions or concerns.	91%	9%			
When I have raised an issue, I feel it has been dealt with properly.	72%	19%			9% I haven't raised an issue but I am sure it would be.
The teachers are approachable and do their best to ensure my child(ren)'s needs are met.	86%	14%			
I feel my child(ren)'s needs are well met, including if my child has SEN or a Disability.	63%	14%			23%
The school teaches my child(ren) about how to be healthy and make good lifestyle choices (including Running a Mile a day).	67%	33%			
The school teaches my child about how to be safe online.	67%	33%			
The school communicates with parents about wider support: mental health, online safety, etc.	67%	33%			
I feel able to approach school if I need any support.	81%	14%			5%
The school encourages parents to drive and park responsibly in the area around school.	76%	19%			5%
The school teaches my child about road safety.	81%	19%			
The school is well led and managed.	81%	19%			
I would recommend this school to a friend.	91%	9%			

The questionnaire responses are overwhelmingly positive but there are some issues that have been raised that we will address either straight away or over time:

1. Communication - this covers several aspects:
 - a. When we need to cancel clubs on the day due to staff shortages etc. - we do post messages on Facebook and ask that anyone who sees it lets us know so that we can phone/email the rest. We appreciate that sometimes it is very short notice and you may not get the message. From our point of view, this is never a problem because if we have cancelled a club and can't contact you, children simply go into after school club or another activity club and are collected at the normal after clubs time (you won't be charged if we have needed to put your child into Night Owls because of a club cancellation).
 - b. General communication and reminders - we have looked at many methods of communication that schools use. They tend to be relatively expensive for a small school so we are cautious to use something that doesn't add enough value. We continue to look at options with this. Our monthly newsletters and clubs letters are on our website as are the holiday dates and other information.

We also often email general messages to all parents or the parents of particular classes. Many of you have recognised that we look to develop the children's independence so children do take letters and simple messages home themselves. If it is crucial that a message gets home we will contact you but often it's informal. In Oak and Chestnut letters and fliers are always put in bookbags for you to retrieve. As I said we are looking at workable, manageable and affordable options for enhancing communication moving forward.

- c. Weekly online bulletins - this is only possible via email at the moment. When there is lots going on that you need to know about, I have generally done a bulletin. We always put the house colour that has won on the website and children who have been awarded certificates are on there too. Diary dates are on top of the monthly newsletter that is also on the website. I am now going to try an email bulletin each Friday and see how that goes. Let me know if it's useful or if there's anything else that could be on it!
 - d. More notice for some events - we always endeavour to give as much notice as possible. Sometimes we get late notice for things happening and sometimes the plate spinning means we simply miss something until it is almost upon us. We will continue to try our utmost to keep you informed in a timely way.
 - e. Being able to see photographs of the children - These are put on the website as well as Facebook. We tend to post more on FB if we are on a visit because we can do that remotely but a good selection are always put on the website too. Much of what comes through to FB are entries that have been posted on our website because they automatically post on FB too.
2. Paying online - we continue to look for a reasonably priced online package that allows parents to pay online in a way that works for us and also includes a messaging service for parents. We have a very tight budget (as everyone does at present) so we have to be really careful to get value for money, we have dismissed some companies in the past because they are very expensive for our small school relative to the number of children. We can do BACS payments but we have had a long-running saga in trying to get our account online (we're still persevering). In the meantime, you are always welcome to pay by BACS and we will continue to seek a more streamlined solution that is affordable.
 3. Healthy Eating - a couple of you raised the issue of healthy eating linked with school dinners, Early Birds and Night Owls. We will look at whether there are any options regarding making the dinners as healthy as possible. We tend to have limited control as do the staff at BLS kitchen so we will investigate what can be done if there are any issues.
At Early Birds and Night Owls, the children always have free access to as much fruit as they like and we have now adjusted snacks so that fruit is always a part of the snack and eaten before other food for any reluctant children. We seek to ensure that there is always a good balance that is both healthy and appealing to the children.
 4. The wider education of the children - one parent mentioned this who was very positive about school overall and just queried exactly what we do in this regard. We have a great emphasis at our school on the whole child and educating them in many aspects, not just the academic. Planet Inspiration and Rights and Responsibilities are constants. Our weekly assembly themes often focus on themes such as kindness, honesty, courage, ambition, resilience, road safety, internet safety, etc. Our weekly PSHE lessons also focus on key aspects of personal, social and health education each half term. Full details of our PSHE curriculum (and all other curriculum areas) can be found on our website under "Our Learning" then "Curriculum". In P4C we often explore concepts linked with personal development in a more philosophical way such as friendship, independence, influence by others, etc.
Issues arising among the children are dealt with promptly and fairly and we always seek to "nip things in the bud" when they arise. As you have recognised, behaviour is generally of a very high standard in our school. We are very proactive in addressing issues as they are brought to our attention. We encourage the children to share concerns with a trusted adult and this message is reiterated often after being

introduced through Kidsafe (one of our safeguarding education tools). We have Worry Boxes in each class so children can put their worries in there without having to approach a member of staff. If you have any concerns about your child, do always let us know and we will work together to encourage them to share worries.

We also have specific support for some children for social skills, managing emotions, etc. Where necessary, we promptly do referrals to obtain further support from other agencies. We celebrate children's achievements in all areas not just the academic so our Good Work assemblies often award certificates for such things as good manners, kindness, caring, taking a risk and honesty. There are class certificates, lunch certificates and Night Owls/ Early Birds certificates.

5. Coat pegs for Early Birds and Night Owls suggested by one parent- this is a great idea and one we have been wondering how to address for a little while as we can't have pegs on the hall walls due to PE lessons in there. We will find a solution to this.
6. Security for children in the mornings from breakfast club mentioned by one parent - we had already introduced fluorescent vests for those children before reading this request! It makes it much easier for staff to keep an eye on those children and for other parents to notice anyone near the gate. Children know not to leave the playground and go near the gate.
7. Music - one parent suggested continued development of the instrument teaching that we have done in alternate years. We have a clear progression in music where we alternate whole class instrument teaching (money permitting in the future because this is very expensive as you may imagine) with all of the other aspects of the music curriculum in the other year. Therefore, in the current year we are focusing on composition, appreciation, singing, listening and improvisation using all of our other instruments: untuned percussion, glockenspiels, voice and music IT.
8. More sporting opportunities for younger children suggested by one parent - we are part of our local cluster which organises sports competitions. We have had more events for KS1 children in the past but this year there has been more for the older children so far - we can feed back to the cluster if we feel there could be a better balance. In terms of our clubs, we used to run football club for all children but we haven't got the parent volunteers that we used to have to make this possible unfortunately. The children do have many organised games and sports play equipment at lunchtimes - they have timetabled football for all classes, forest school club, girls' football and other games organised by lunch staff and, when on the field, this extends to a rota of more team games led by staff and games led by our Y6 children as they have been trained as Sports Leaders.
9. Maths learning journeys - two parents mentioned that they can find it difficult to fit in. The first thing to say is that we don't set home learning to "tick a box" or for the sake of it. It is simply things that children need to practice little and often and parents being involved really spurs children on. We see a massive difference in the children's learning when their parents really take an interest and help them in small ways at home with reading and maths targets. The maths targets are individual so, though we do practice at school, the individual practice for each child is crucial. We intentionally make the practice informal and something that you can easily do on a walk, while cooking tea or washing up, while driving, etc. It is just 10 minutes a day and shouldn't be onerous or get in the way of doing other activities in an evening. Children further up the Learning Journey steps will often need no parental assistance only checking in to make sure they have done it.

