



## Return to School Pupil Survey: Final Report



When the children returned to Mary Queen of Peace PS, following the Covid-19 school closures, a total of 54 pupils (an equal number of boys and girls) from P4-7 were surveyed on:

- How they felt during the school closure;
- Their experience of learning at home;
- How the children would like to learn at home in the future, if schools had to close or individual children had to self-isolate.

The children completed the survey electronically and were given:

- Questions to answer with Yes or No; or multiple-choice selections;
- Statements to respond to with Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.

For the purpose of this report the Strongly Agree/Agree comments have been combined to draw together the main findings from the survey. You will recognise that the differences between Strongly Agree and Agree are important, so the full breakdown has also been presented in the form of graphs.

The findings have been presented to the children and discussed with the staff. The information from the pupils' survey will be used in conjunction with the parent survey to plan for the school's future use of blended learning (the mixture of learning in school and online). It will help prepare our children for learning in a modern world as well as preparing for home learning should it be necessary as a result of Covid-19 in the future.

Thank-you to the children for their participation in the online survey.

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### How the Children Felt During the School Closures

The children understood that the reason they were at home was to keep everyone safe as a result of Covid-19. 96% of the children confirmed that they understood why they were at home and not at school. There were concerns about Covid-19, with 72% of the pupils either agreeing or strongly agreeing that they were worried about Covid-19.

Pupils' responses indicate a positive response to the experience of being at home:

- 92% enjoyed the time with family, although 96% also missed the close contact with grandparents/cousins etc.. who they could not visit at this time;
- 87% enjoyed the exercise;
- While 92%, like all the grown-ups, enjoyed connecting online via Zoom or games. We love children's honesty in MQP because:
- 72% were happy enough to be at home!

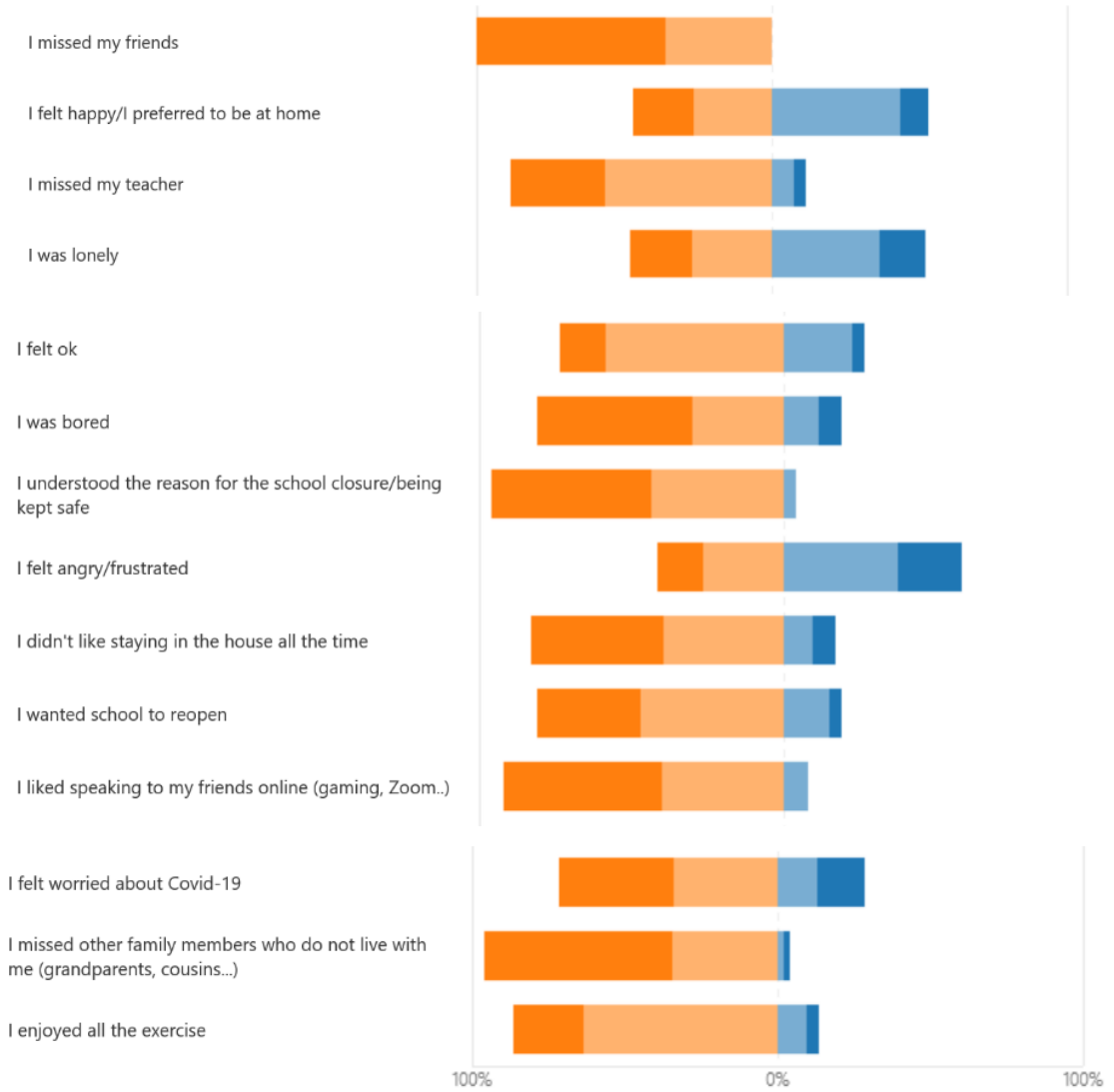
As you would expect there was a downside to the time away from school:

- Everyone missed their friends! (100%);
- 89% of the children missed their teacher;
- 83% didn't like staying in the house all the time;
- 81% were bored;
- Unfortunately 48% of the children said they were lonely.

3. We would like to know how you felt during the school closure. Please read each statement and select one answer.

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■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly Disagree



## The Children's Experience of Learning at Home

Let's begin at the beginning – 52% of the children enjoyed learning at home. It's a start!

Many of the children (59%) recognised that they lacked motivation to work and this is a very fair and honest reflection on their home learning experience. The difficulties with learning at home were also evident in:

- 56% of pupils felt there was too much work in the Learning at Home Packs;
- 45% of the children enjoyed the work in the packs;
- Given this, it is unsurprising that only 20% of the pupils felt that there was not enough work.

Parents took on the challenge of home learning and:

- 73% of the children thought their parents were good teachers. Well done!  
It was a challenge for parents and the children recognised this (you similarly identified this in the Parent Survey);
- 56% of children said their parents found it difficult to help them with their school work.  
The obstacles included;
- 70% found it difficult because of noise at home, distractions from siblings;
- 40% of the children said their parents were working from home/key workers and they were busy with their own work.

Learning at home was thrust on schools, parents and pupils very quickly and without notice. Despite this there were successes, which should be celebrated:

- 93% of the children read books.  
We are pleased with the reading scores the children have achieved when they returned to school. This reflects the work that went on at home. This is great news. Thank you.

Online learning became a feature of the children's curriculum in Key Stage 2 (Y5-7) and this type of learning appealed to the children:

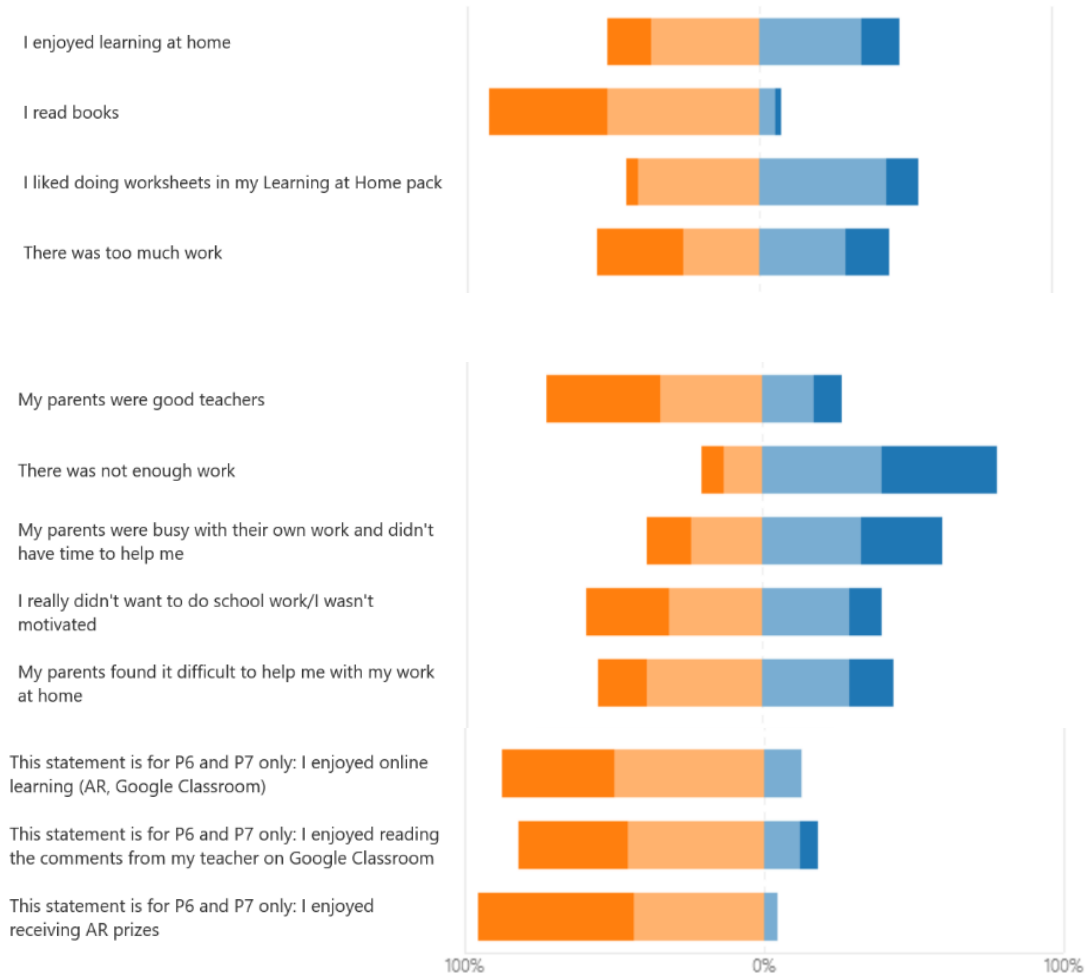
- 86% of the children enjoyed Accelerated Reader (AR) and Google Classroom activities.  
Particularly strong features of the online learning were:
- 96% of the children enjoyed the AR reward system, where teachers monitored the children's reading remotely and Mrs McKeown (Literacy Co-ordinator) delivered prizes in person;
- 82% of the children enjoyed the comments from their teacher on Google Classroom.



4. We would like to know about your home learning during this time. Please read each statement and select one answer.

[More Details](#)

■ Strongly Agree 
 ■ Agree 
 ■ Disagree 
 ■ Strongly Disagree



## Learning at Home – How Ready are the Children for Online Learning at Home?

Learning at home is dependent upon homes having the technology to support this new, blended approach to learning. The children reported that:

- 98% of their homes had devices to support online learning:
  - 85% had laptops;
  - 72% had tablets;
  - 59% had smartphones;
  - 52% had iPads;
  - 31% had desktops.

We wanted to know about printing worksheets at home, should a child have to self-isolate or schools close at very short notice. 77% of the children said they had a printer at home.

Feedback about Learning at Home, which initially came to the school in June, indicated that there could be times when more than one child in a family needs to be working online at the same time. 21% of the children indicated that this could be a difficulty.

7. If I had to do online learning work at home at the same time as my brother/sister there would be enough devices in our home to do this.

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Keeping safe while working online is a very important part of our Child Protection programme. The children clearly have been taught how to stay safe online and we must always be vigilant and ensure children are supervised when working online.

8. I felt safe working online.

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9. In school I was taught how to keep safe online.

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## Learning at Home – What Might Learning at Home Look Like in the Future?

In the final section of the survey we asked the children about how we could improve blended learning if they had to self-isolate or if the school had to close.

The children were asked if they wished to have worksheets, work online or a mixture of both. The preference was for online learning (while their parents favoured a blended approach).

10. If I had to do school work at home in the future I would prefer (please select one):

[More Details](#)

- Learning at Home pack with p... 3
- Online learning only (e.g. AR,... 27
- A mixture between online lear... 21

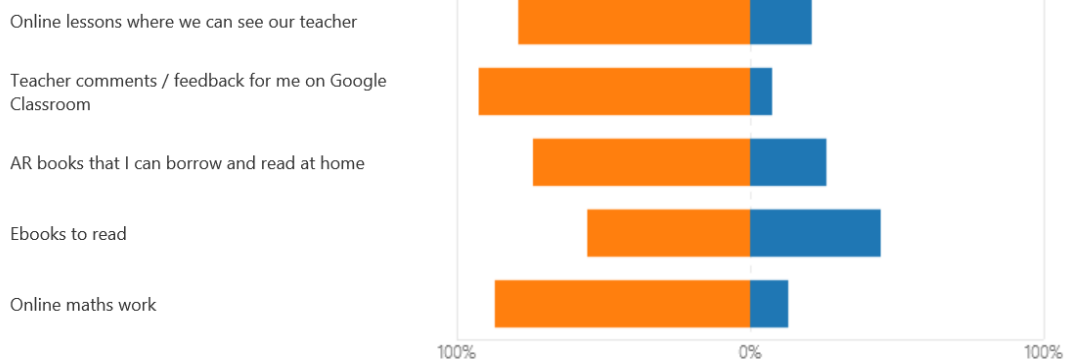


Finally, we asked the children how we could improve online learning, going forward:

11. How could the school improve online learning in the future?

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■ Yes ■ No



The children would like to see their teachers online and they enjoyed reading individual bits of feedback from their teacher too.

The pupils' views on reading at home are mixed. 84% of the children would like to have an actual book to read at home, while a slight majority (56%) also feel they could continue with ebooks.

Finally the children recognised that maths is an important part of online learning, with 87% believing that online learning could be improved by including maths, which we have done with Mathletics.

A really thoughtful and very valuable contribution from our pupils, which will help us plan for future learning in Mary Queen of Peace PS. Thank-you children.