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ORCHARD
SCHOOL
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INSPIRE TODAY, EMPOWER FOR LIFE

Headteacher: Mrs Julia Hinchliffe **MA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

5 February 2021

Dear parents and carers

With five weeks of the January lockdown now completed, we have just one more school week to go before the half term holiday. I know many children are feeling quite tired and no doubt many of you are as well, so thank you for the efforts you are putting in to try to keep your children focused on their learning for five more days!

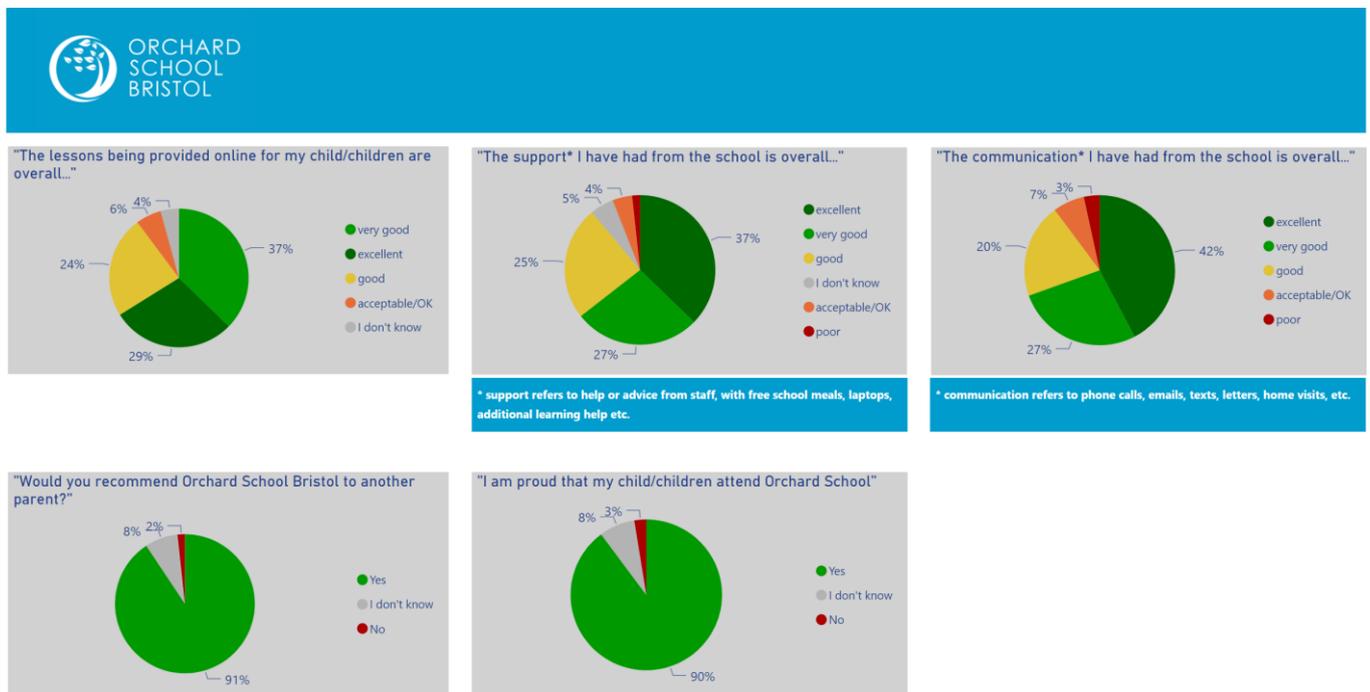
As you know, we are monitoring students' attendance to lessons through each day, and it is absolutely fantastic to see attendance at 97% at the start of each day. That's a huge pat on the back for children, parents and carers, and staff.

Student Survey

We are asking children to respond to a Student Survey now, and this has been sent directly to them. Please encourage them to fill it in over the next few days.

Parent/Carer Survey

Thank you to so many of you who completed our Parent/Carer Survey last week. I'd like to share the results with you below, but also thank you for such a brilliant response.



Staff are working very hard, trying to do their best, and we know we don't always get it right for everyone straight away. We will respond to everyone who has requested a call back from the Parent/Carer Survey and try to resolve the issues you raised.

I would like to say a very big THANK YOU to so many of you who wrote a thank you to school staff. It has been an absolute delight, and really quite emotional, to read your responses. When families respond so kindly and let us know that the school is helping, it means an awful lot. I am sharing your "thank yous" with staff today so that they can have a very positive end to a long week.

Lockdown has been a immensely difficult time, causing stress and increased anxiety. Feeling worried about the future for our children, or angry that they are missing out, concerned that they won't be able to get back into school easily when the time comes, or generally that they've lost their motivation, are all very common feelings. It's Children's Mental Health week, and if you would like to look at some supportive resources for your children, you could try [Young Minds website](#).

There are also some helpful pages for parents. It's all too easy to forget that as parents and carers you need to look after yourselves too, and give yourself some time when you can.

[Tips for parents looking after yourselves](#)

[Tip for parents living in a difficult situation during lockdown](#)

Please remember you can also contact your Pastoral Manager, and they will do their best to help.

With my best wishes for a good weekend.



Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher