



4th Parent Coronavirus Survey Results – England Only

November 2020

Key Headlines & Trends

Returning to School

- Six out of ten parents said their child had attended school every day over the first autumn half term.
- More than a third of parents (36%) said their child has attended school most days or some days over the autumn half term.
- Less than one in twenty (4%) of parents said their child had not been into school at all since the start of the new school year. Reasons given for not attending school at all included parents not feeling school is safe, clinically vulnerable household members and consecutive periods of self-isolation.
- More than eight in ten (85%) parents said their child has settled back in school either very well or quite well since the start of the new school year.
- Around one in ten (12%) of parents said that their child have not settled back in school well over the past weeks.

Lost Learning Catch Up

- Seven in ten parents said that their child is receiving all or some of the support they need to catch up on the face to face learning missed whilst schools were closed in the spring and summer terms.
- One in ten parents feel that their child is not getting any of the support they need to catch up on the face to face learning missed whilst schools were closed in the spring and summer terms.

Mental Health & Well-Being

- Almost six in ten (59%) of parents feel that their child is getting either all or some of the mental health and well-being support they need from school.
- One in six (17%) of parents feel that their child is not getting any of the mental health and well-being support they need from school.
- Around four in ten (43%) of parents are more worried about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their child's education now compared to March, when schools first closed to the majority of pupils.

Arrangements for Remote Learning

- Almost two thirds (64%) of parents said their child's school had shared details of how they would continue to educate their child if/when they had to stay at home due to the coronavirus situation. Of those, two thirds are happy with these arrangements.
- More than two thirds of parents would like to see more instruction / teaching given to support the work set, more live online lessons, more recorded lessons / video clips provided by the school and more feedback to their child on the work compared with last spring and summer's home learning provision.

Digital Device & Resource Access

- More than two thirds (67%) of parents said their child has access to a digital device with internet access for remote learning that they don't have to share with another person in the household.

- Just under a third (31%) of parents said their child has a digital device with internet access for remote learning that they have to share with someone else in their household.
- Of those that do have access to a digital device and the internet, almost two thirds (62%) primarily use a laptop and 4% use a smartphone.
- More than nine in ten (93%) of parents said that their child has access to the stationary they need to learn at home.
- Almost one in fifth do not have access to a printer (19%) and 18% do not have a quiet place to study at home.

Coronavirus Absence

- Of those children who hadn't been into school every day since the start of the new academic year:
 - almost three in ten (29%) parents said they have been sent home from school as a result of one or more children in their bubble testing positive for Covid-19;
 - almost a quarter (23%) of parents said that their child has shown symptoms of Covid-19 themselves resulting in being off school;
 - nearly one fifth (17%) of parents said that their child has had to self-isolate due to another member of the household developing symptoms of Covid-19 and/or testing positive for Covid-19;
 - more than one in ten (11%) of parents said that their child has been too anxious to attend school due to the coronavirus situation.
- On average a child has spent nine days out of the school, where parents told us their child's absence was coronavirus related. This excludes those who have not been in school at all since the start of the new school year.
- Just under half (45%) of parents reporting a coronavirus absence said that their child has missed ten or more days of school in the first half term.
- More than one in ten (12%) of parents reporting a corona virus absence said that their child has missed more than 25, five full weeks of school in the first half term.
- Of those children who hadn't been into school every day since the start of the new academic year, just under a third (31%) of parents said their child had been set work for some or most of their normal lessons.
- Of those children who hadn't been into school every day since the start of the new academic year, 14% of parents said their child had been following their normal time table with at least half or a few online lessons.

Managing the Coronavirus Situation

- Almost two thirds (67%) of parents tend to agree or strongly agree that their child's school is doing a good job managing the coronavirus situation.
- Just over half of parents said that their child being sent home from school due to coronavirus is manageable for their family, an increase from July.
- Just over a quarter (26%) of parents said that their employer would have to be flexible about their working arrangements for it to be manageable if/when their child was sent home from school due to coronavirus, an increase from July.

- More than one in ten (14%) of parents said they cannot work when their child is not able to go to school due to coronavirus.
- Seven in ten parents feel the government is managing children's education during the pandemic not at all well or not very well, a constant since July.
- Around four in ten parents feel that their child's school has listened to them during the coronavirus pandemic, little shift since July.
- More than three quarters (76%) of parents feel that the government has not listened to them during the coronavirus pandemic, a slight decrease from July.

Methodology

A short online survey, promoted to parents via social media, was active between 22nd October and 4th November 2020. 624 parents completed the survey (405 in England, 191 in Northern Ireland and 28 in Wales). **These results are from parents based in England only.** 97 parents answered most of the questions twice to report on their second child's experiences which means the results of those questions are based on 502 responses.

Respondent demographics such as child's year group, geographical region, ethnic minority status, whether the child has special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or not and state or independent school have been collected and further analysis is available, subject to the number of responses in these categories.

Please note percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Survey Analysis

Returning to School

We asked parents whether their child had been into school since the start of the autumn term (Figure 1). 60% said their children attended school every day, 29% most days and 7% some days.

4% said their child had not been into school at all since the start of the new school year. Reasons given for not attending school at all included parents not feeling school is safe, clinically vulnerable household members and consecutive periods of self-isolation.

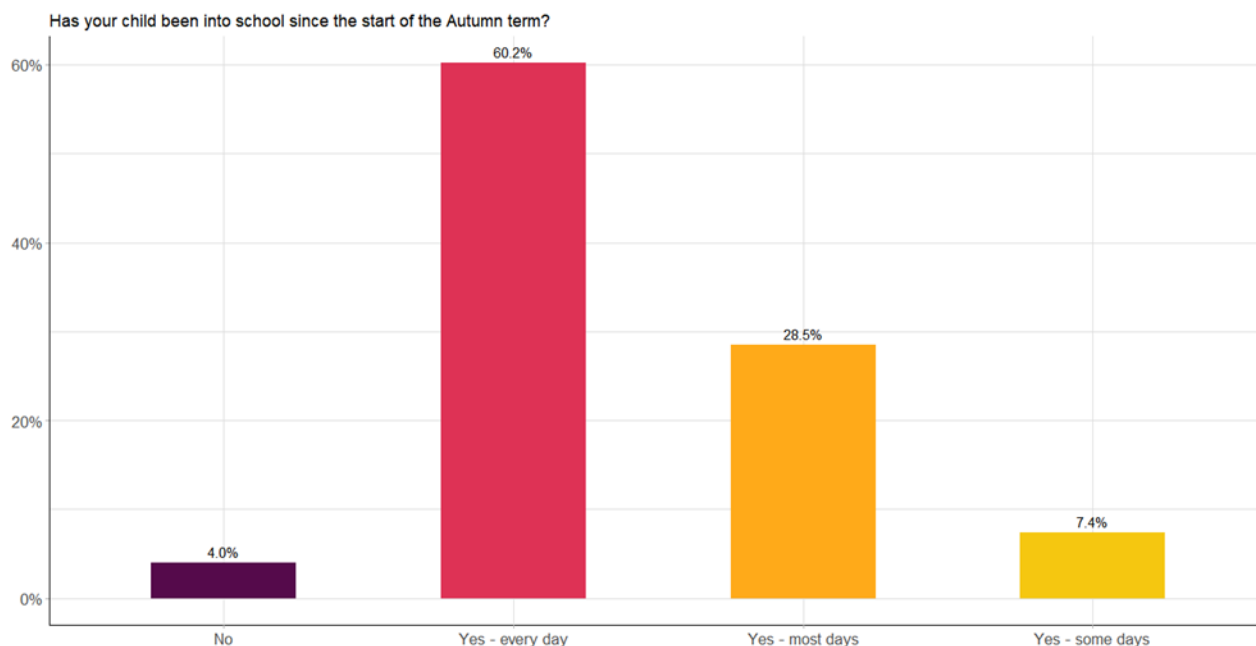
We asked parents why their child hadn't been into school at all; responses included the following quotes:

"We are in a very high infection rate area and I don't believe schools are safe."

"Endless 14 day quarantines in the class. The first day a child tested positive and every time the class has been able to go back another one does. "

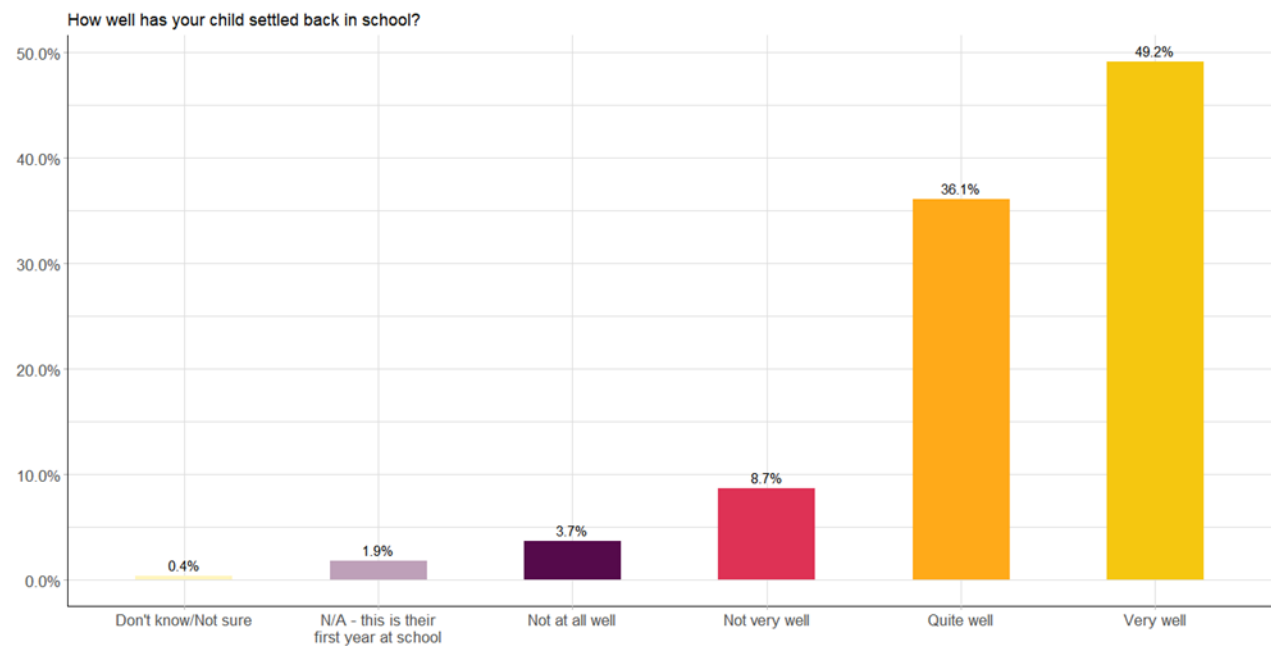
"We are a shielding family. My partner and son are both cev [clinically extremely vulnerable]."

Figure 1



We asked parents how their child has settled back into school (Figure 2). 49% of children having settled in very well and a further 36% quite well. 12% of children have not settled back in school well.

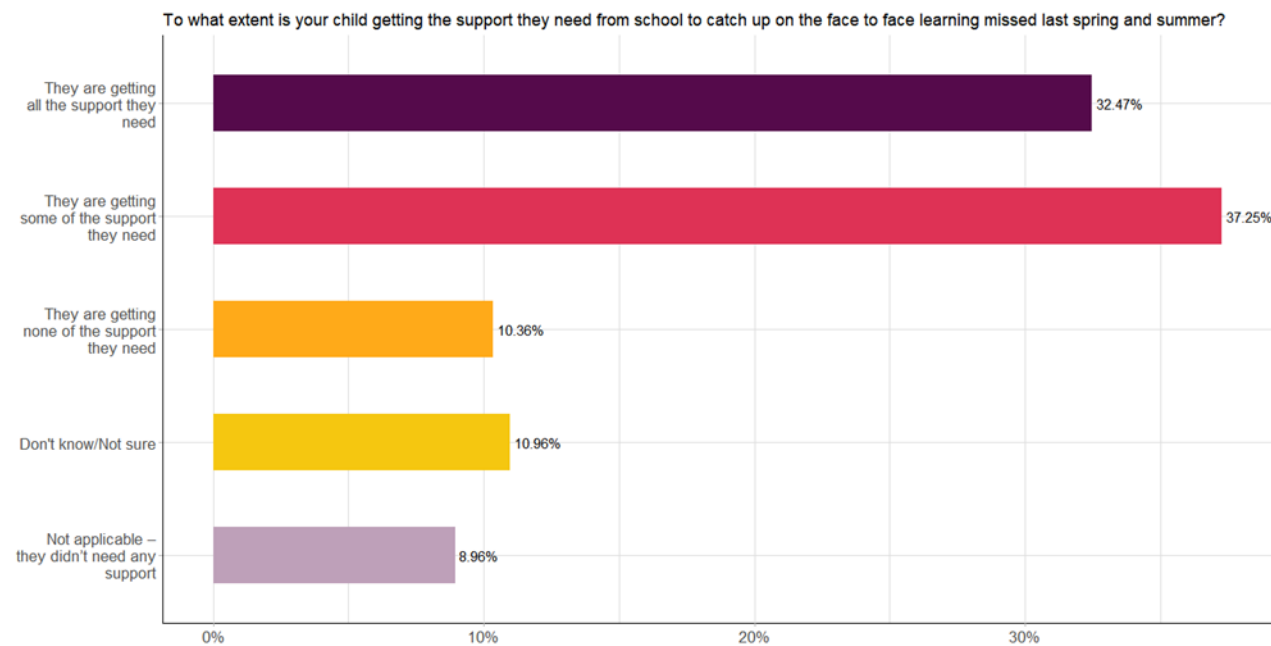
Figure 2



Lost Learning Catch Up

We asked parents whether their child was getting the support they need from school to catch up on the face to face learning missed whilst schools were closed in the spring and summer terms (Figure 3). 32% of children are receiving all the support they need to catch up. 37% are getting some of the support they need. 10% of children are not getting any of the support they need with a further 11% of parents not sure if they are or not. 9% of parents said their child didn't need any support to catch up.

Figure 3

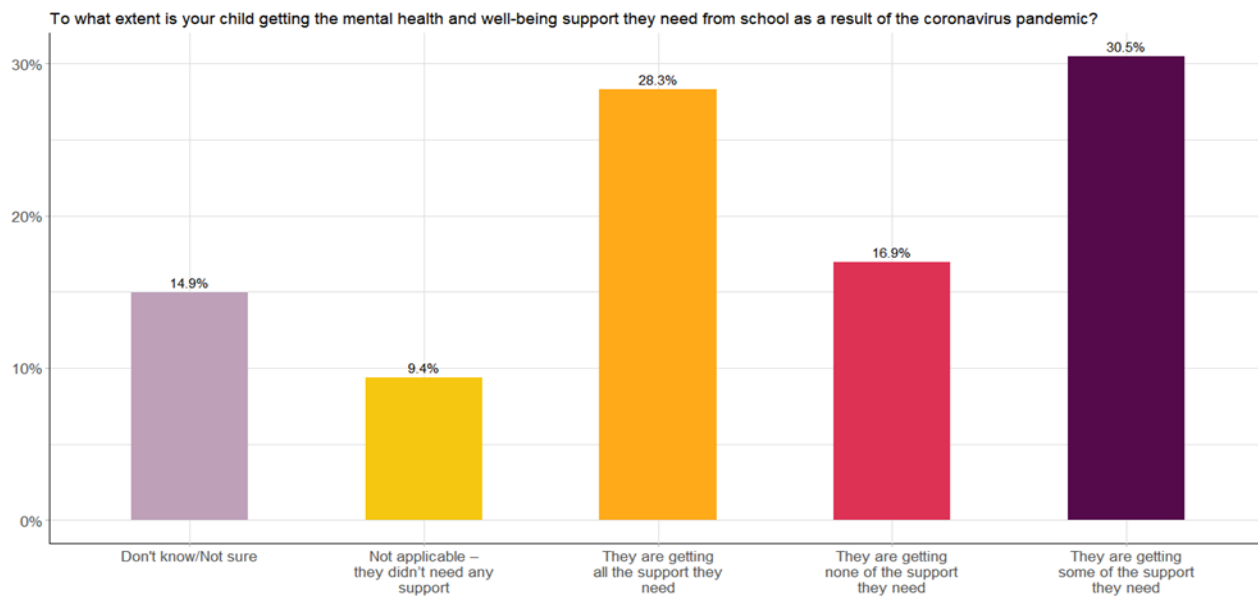


Mental Health & Well-Being

We asked parents to what extent their child was getting the mental health and well-being support they needed from the school as a result of the coronavirus pandemic (Figure 4). 28% of children are getting all the mental health and well-being support they need from school and a further 31% some of the support they need. 9% of parents said their child didn't need any support.

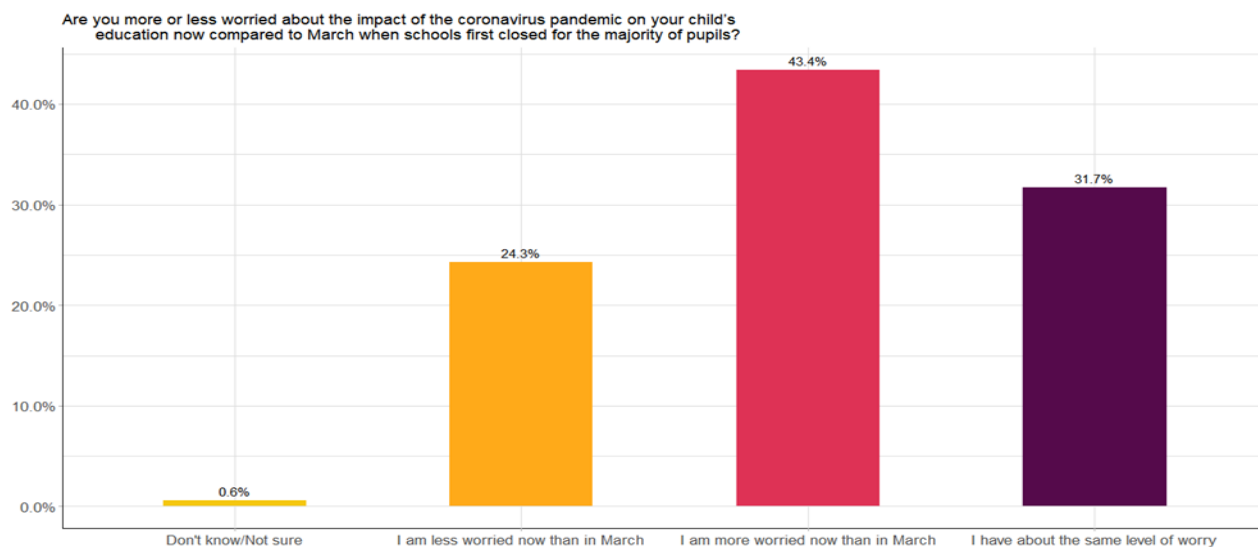
17% of children aren't getting any of the mental health and well-being support they need from school, with another 15% of parents unsure.

Figure 4



We asked parents if they are more or less worried about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their child's education now compared to March when schools first closed for the majority of pupils (Figure 5). 43% of parents are more worried about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their child's education now compared to March. 24% are less worried and 32% have the same level of worry as in March.

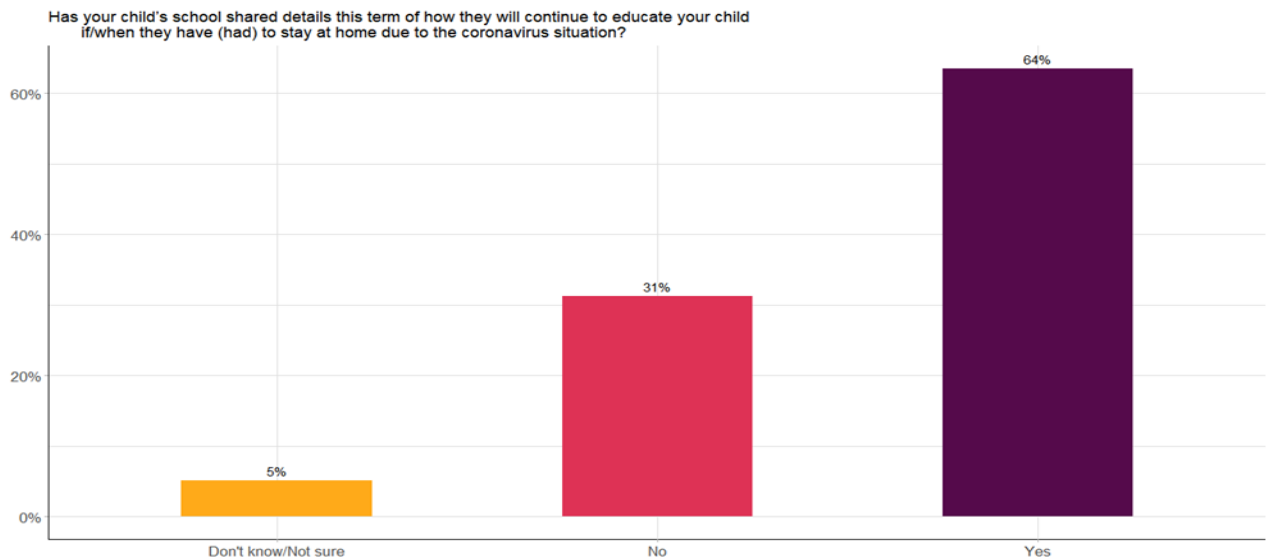
Figure 5



Arrangements for Remote Learning

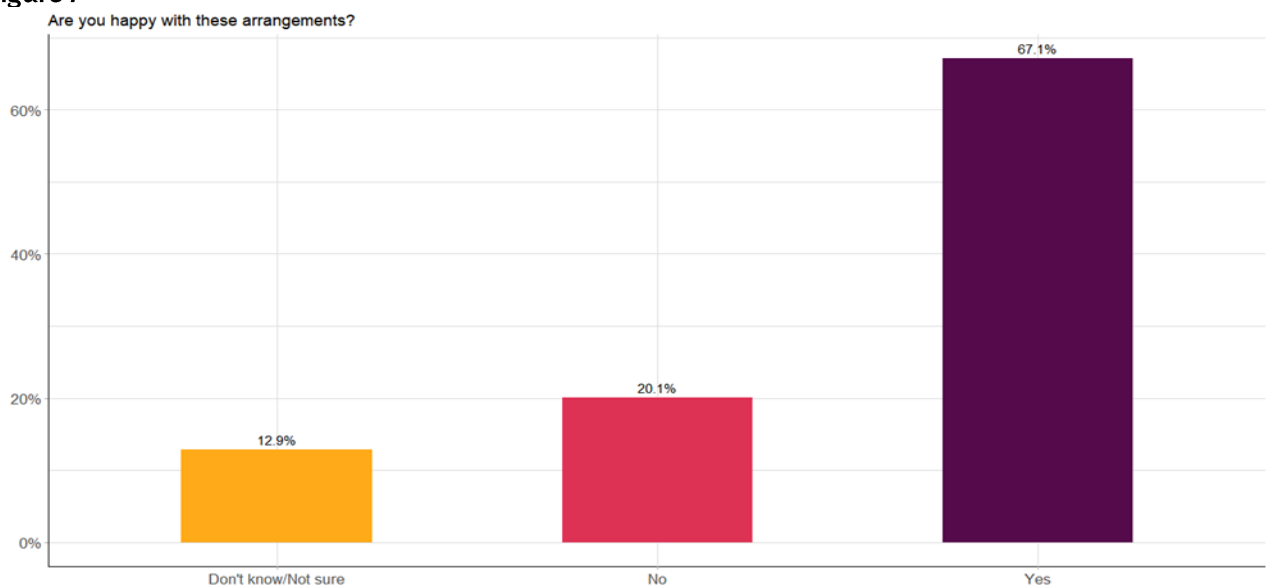
With numbers of coronavirus cases increasing, schools are now required to implement remote learning for those affected by Covid-19 restrictions. **We asked parents if their child's school had shared details of how they would continue to educate their child if/when they had to stay at home due to the coronavirus situation (Figure 6).** 64% had already shared details with parents.

Figure 6



Of the 64% who received details, 67% of parents are happy with those arrangements whilst 20% are not (Figure 7).

Figure 7



We asked parents if they would like to see anything different in terms of remote learning now compared with last spring and summer's arrangements (Figure 8). 50% of parents are happy for their child to receive the same volume of work as last time and 34% would like to see an increased volume of work.

68% of parents would like their child to receive more feedback on their work and 65% more instruction/teaching to support work set, 65% more live online lessons, 62% more recorded lessons/video clips and 58% more activities that support their child's well-being.

These results are comparable with those from July when we asked a similar question¹. In July 58% of parents were satisfied with the volume of work set, 22% of parents were satisfied with the number of live online lessons and 35% were satisfied with the number of recorded lessons or video clips from their school. 46% of parents were satisfied with the feedback their child received on their work completed and 32% were satisfied with the school's activities to support well-being.

The change between July and now is that 47% of parents were satisfied with the instruction/teaching given and 65% are asking for more going forward.

Figure 8

What, if anything, would you like to see done differently now compared with last spring and summer's arrangements for learning at home?	Would like more	Same as before	Would like less	Don't know/Not sure	N/A
Volume of work set	34.3%	50.4%	8.6%	3.4%	3.4%
Instruction/teaching given to support work set	65.3%	29.1%	1.0%	1.2%	3.4%
Number of live online lessons provided by the school	64.5%	18.9%	5.4%	2.9%	8.1%
Number of recorded lessons/video clips provided by the school	62.1%	22.5%	4.0%	4.4%	7%
Feedback to my child on work completed	67.7%	27.1%	0.8%	1.6%	2.8%
Activities that support my child's wellbeing	58.2%	32.9%	2.0%	2.4%	4.6%

Digital Device & Resource Access

We asked parents whether their child has access to a device with internet access for remote learning (Figure 9). 67% of children have a digital device that they don't have to share whilst a further 31% have access but have to share it with someone else in the household.

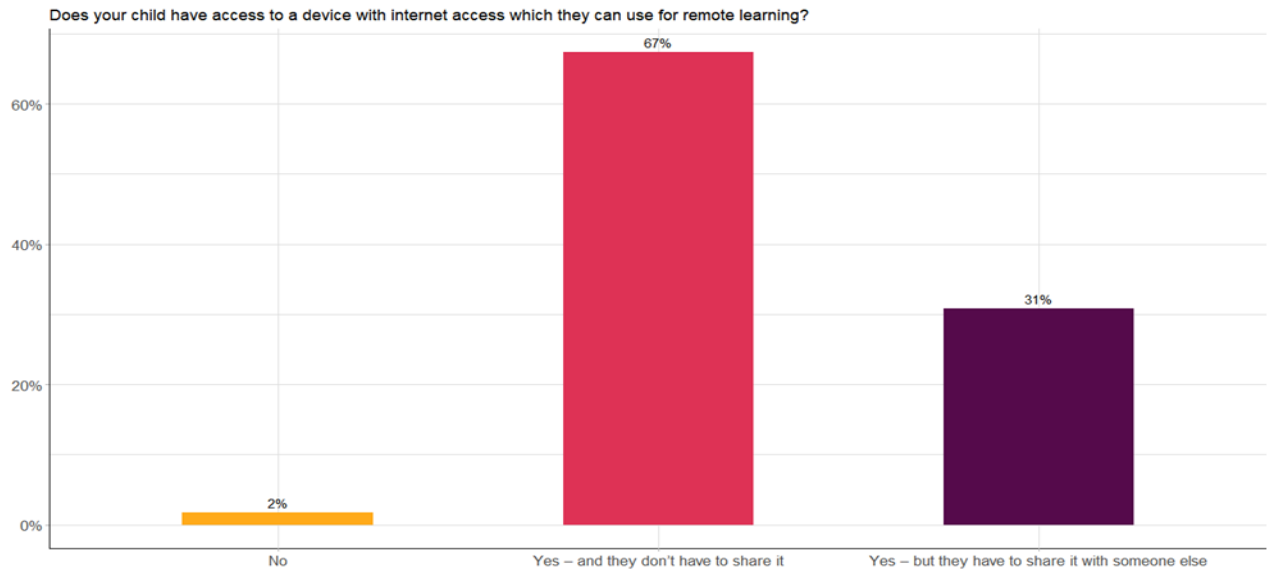
2% do not have access to a device with an internet connection for remote learning².

In July, parents told us that 73% of their children had access to device during school hours and 30% access to a device they have to share. We acknowledge that this may not be a direct comparison and have tightened the October question to avoid any ambiguity.

¹ See Parentkind's Third Coronavirus Survey - <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/uploads/files/1/CV19%203rd%20survey%20infographic%20ENG.pdf>

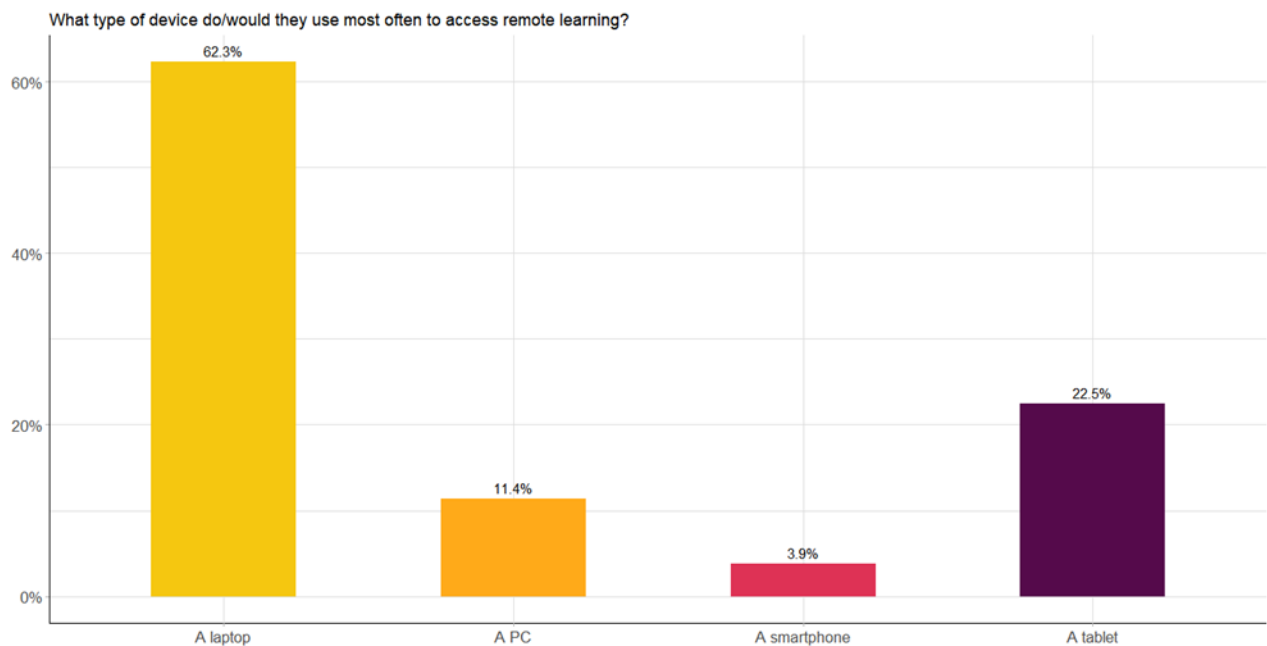
² We acknowledge that the nature of the survey being online and promoting it via social networks may have prevented households without digital access from responding. Going forward we will look at other ways of including these parents in our research.

Figure 9



We asked parents what type of device they used most often to access remote learning (Figure 10). Of those that do have access, 62% primarily use a laptop, 23% a tablet, 11% a PC and 4% use a smartphone.

Figure 10



We asked parents what access they had to other resources at home to support remote learning (Figure 11). 93% of children have access to the stationary they need to complete school work, 19% do not have access to a printer and 18% do not have a quiet place to study at home.

In July, parents told us that 75% of children had access to a printer to support remote learning.

Figure 11

Does your child have access to any of the following at home to support their remote learning? (Tick all that apply)	Response Percent
The stationery they need to complete school work	93.2%
A quiet space to study	82.3%
A printer	80.9%
None of the above	2.4%
Prefer not to say	0.4%

Coronavirus Absence

We asked parents whose children hadn't been into school every day the reason for the absence (Figure 12). 29% of children have been sent home from school as a result of one or more children in their bubble testing positive for Covid-19. 23% have shown symptoms of Covid-19 themselves resulting in them being off school whilst only 2% tested positive during the half term. 17% of children have had to self-isolate due to another member of the household developing symptoms of Covid-19 and/or testing positive for Covid-19 and 11% have been too anxious to attend school due to the coronavirus situation. Overall, just under a third of all parents said their child was out of school for at least one day last term due to coronavirus.

Figure 12

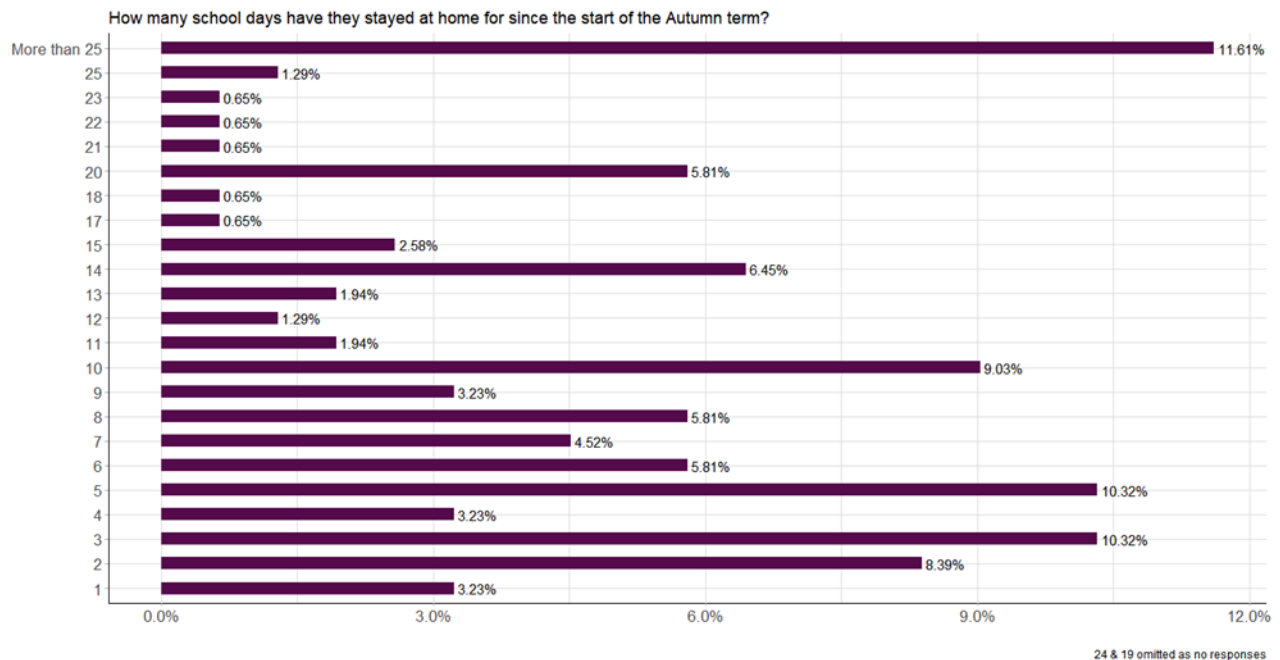
Has your child had to stay at home at any point since the start of the new school year due to the coronavirus situation? (Tick all that apply)	Response Percent
My child has been sent home from school as a result of one or more children in their bubble testing positive for Covid-19	28.6%
My child has shown symptoms of Covid-19 during this period	22.8%
Other	18.9%
My child has had to self-isolate due to another member of the household developing symptoms of Covid-19 and/or testing positive for Covid-19	16.5%
My child has been too anxious to attend school due to the coronavirus situation	11.2%
I have decided to keep my child off school for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus situation	10.2%
My child has been sent home from school as a result of teachers not being at school	4.4%
My child's school has been closed at times during this period	3.9%
My child has tested positive for Covid-19 during this period	1.9%
My child has had to quarantine from a trip abroad	0.5%
No – my child's absence was not due to coronavirus	21.8%
Prefer not to say	0.5%

We asked parents who had children absent from school due to coronavirus how many days have they stayed at home for since the start of the autumn term (Figure 13). 45% of those reporting a coronavirus absence missed ten or more days in school whilst 12% missed more than 25 school days (five full weeks). These figures

include children who have been sent home, had to self-isolate, or become ill with Covid-19 as well as children whose parents have chosen not to send their child to school due to the coronavirus situation.

Excluding those who have not been in school at all since the start of the school year, children absent due to coronavirus have spent on average 9 days away from school.

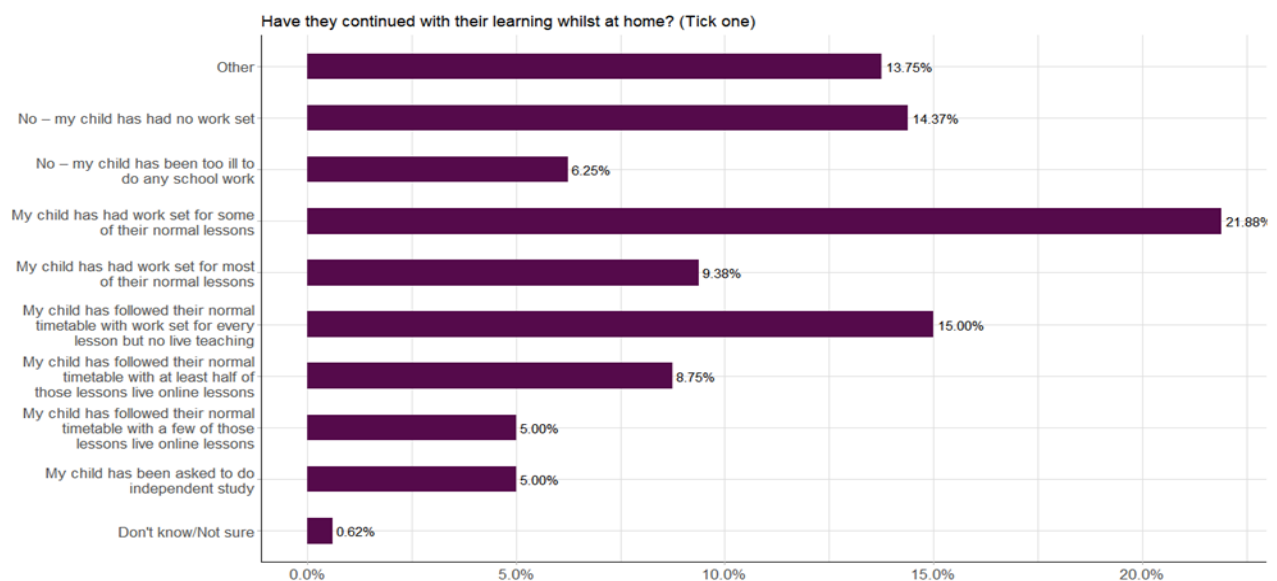
Figure 13



We asked parents of those that had children absent from school due to coronavirus, if they have continued with their learning whilst at home (Figure 14). 9% of children have followed their normal timetable with at least half of those lessons live, and a further 5% have followed a normal timetable with a few online lessons.

15% of children have followed their normal timetable with work set for every lesson but no online teaching. 22% have had work set for some of their lessons. 14% of children have had no work set at all.

Figure 14



Below are a sample of quotes relating to remote learning:

“My child has been sent homework but has had no lessons since the start of lockdown in March.”

“No work was set by school, but I planned and provided learning activities and worked with my child for the length of a school day.”

“At the start nothing but got much better in the last 2 weeks.”

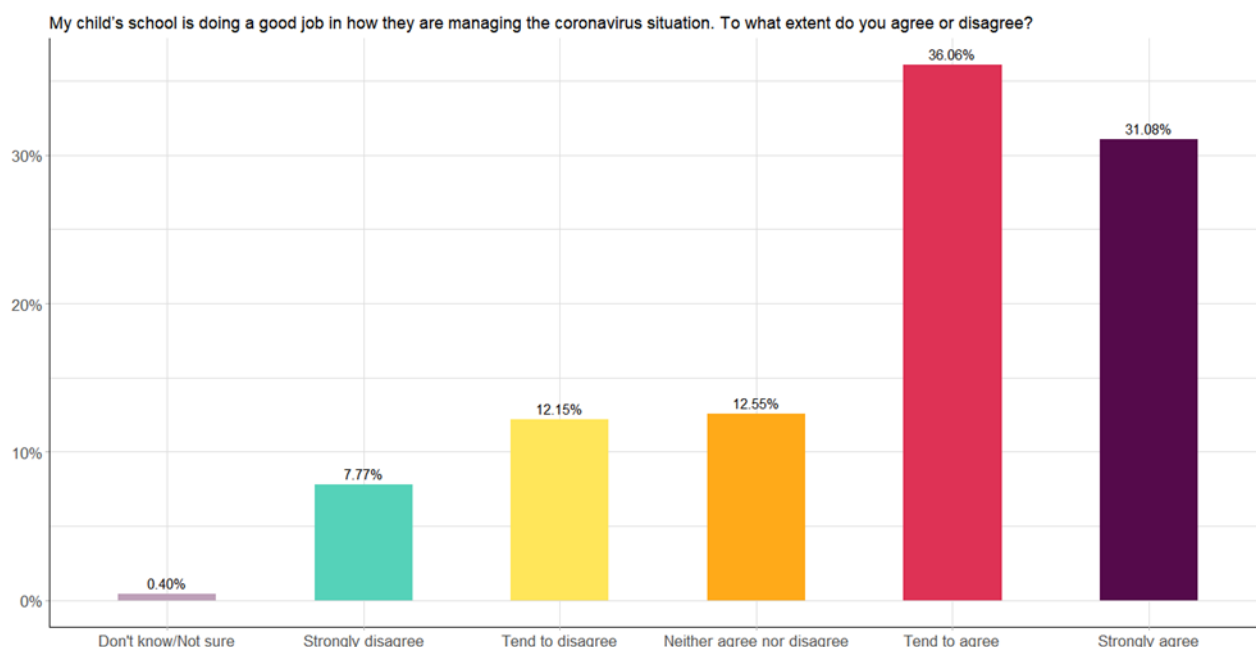
“Approximately 30 minutes of work was set for the day.”

“My son has had no live teaching online via video, he needs interaction and a voice to answer his questions.”

Managing the Coronavirus Situation

We asked parents whether they thought their child’s school was doing a good job managing the coronavirus situation (Figure 15). 31% strongly agree and 36% tend to agree. 8% of parents strongly disagree that their child’s school is doing a good job, with 12% tending to disagree.

Figure 15



We received a further 200 comments on this question, below are a sample of quotes under key themes:

Overall Support:

“My child’s school is absolutely amazing! They have left no stone unturned in supporting all our children taking into account all their needs and circumstances - they deserve medals.”

“I think the school has done an amazing job under difficult conditions, not only academically but also with pastoral support. I am full of admiration for the staff.”

School Communication:

"My child is currently at home due to lack of teachers as they are self-isolating due to a case in years 11 and 13. The school have provided live virtual lessons and work is set. I am pleased with the weekly updates I receive as a parent and any concerns I have raised have been answered and dealt with efficiently."

"Excellent remote learning. Good safety measures in school. Top class communication throughout."

"Our children had to have 2 self-isolation periods this month, after I tested positive (catching from school) and my husband also a teacher tested positive no doubt infected from me so 28 days indoors or the garden which becomes very tiresome but communication from school has been fantastic. They have phoned, zoomed when the school had to close this last week and they rearranged the inset days so only 2 days of learning was missed."

"Regular communication in a large secondary, including letting us know when other parts of the school have had to isolate. They have adapted very well I think ..."

"Online learning very well set up. Clear communication from school regarding Coronavirus situation in school."

"...I would also like to be able to talk to his teacher. The teachers won't stand anywhere near the parents and won't even make eye contact. The lack of contact is disappointing."

Arrangements for Home Learning:

"Every child in school had a tablet as a policy before COVID-19. This is purchased by parents on a payment plan or subsidised for families on low incomes. It has been invaluable and the forward thinking of the school meant they could easily convert to online teaching. It would be a good model for other schools. The communication from the leadership team was also excellent. Timely, honest, straightforward."

"The school did not do enough in the first lockdown but plans for future home learning are much improved."

"The school are doing the best job possible with the staffing and resources they have. Government should be providing more money at this time to enable even better remote learning to be achieved."

Managing Logistics:

"Good protocols in place to manage bubbles, listen to and act on feedback."

"They have sent strict instructions to follow and have sent home bubbles when Covid was found in a year group. They are then set work the next day."

"School are trying their best given the guidelines from the government which severely lacks scientific basis, very worrying. Worried for us and education staff. Worried about ventilation and lack of space. May take my child out of school completely if these are not addressed as we go further into winter. Frightened to death."

"Bubbles far too big (200+). Noticeable lessening of information about cases shared as term has progressed. Working in line with Government guidelines, but those guidelines don't go anywhere near far enough to keep pupils and staff safe."

"School is handling it well with the exception of pick up and drop offs where it is like a cattle market with hardly any social distancing but this is down to the parents and not the school."

"They have made the school day shorter, affecting break time for the children. I don't understand why this would lessen the spread of a virus!? I have grave concerns that mask wearing will hamper communication"

and friendships. I feel uneasy that I have not set foot in my daughter's brand new school or met any of her teachers in person."

"Very unhappy that they've mandated face masks in communal areas and that some staff are teaching in masks. My son has autism and EHCP and this makes learning even more difficult for him."

"Mostly good apart from children freezing in classrooms with windows open and heating off. This can't be good for health, wellbeing or learning."

"I am unhappy that the numbers isolating have been so few and extend to only those sitting next to the positive case..."

"Mainly I am pleased with the schools response given the guidelines they are being asked to work under. However, I think the measures in schools are disproportionate and I would like a return to normality pre Covid. I have 2 children in the state sector and one in the independent. I have noticed huge differences in the schools responses to the situation and as such, I believe the gap between children in the state and independent sectors is only going to increasingly widen."

Lost Learning Catching Up:

"My child is meant to be completing GCSEs next year but they haven't caught up on missed work, never mind covering the remaining curriculum. The school now has 12 cases of Covid. My child is stressed and anxious."

"I am concerned that the school has moved to three lessons per day instead of 5 one hour lessons. My child now has a four week time-table. Whilst this is helping the school to reduce the number of contacts between individuals, it is providing poor quality teaching and learning - e.g. a two hour German lesson once a fortnight - little continuity."

My son complains that the teachers are going through the work he did in lockdown, as not every child in the class completed the lockdown work, ""so the teacher can't move on."" He has become increasingly disaffected with school."

"I would have liked to see a clear plan of which parts of last year's curriculum they were going over again and how this overlaps or links in with this year's curriculum."

"No communication about catch up study and too much information about rules."

"[He is] Hardly ever physically in college. Poor live lessons. He is studying engineering, practical lessons are being missed. No accounting for missing so much last academic year. Will turn up on his allocated day but if there is too many students for the room size some are sent away. Poor teaching quality for home learning while teaching live lessons at the same time."

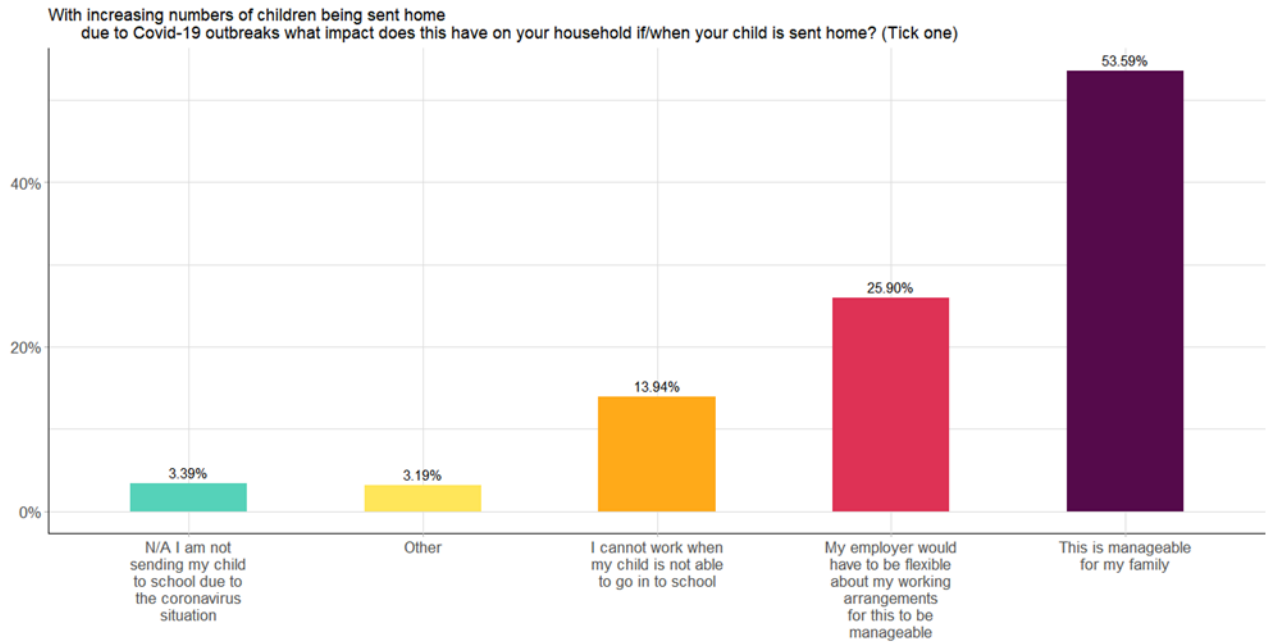
School Absence:

"Non-attendance does NOT mean no education. Parents should have the right to decide if their child attends a school building or learns from home in a pandemic. It is immoral that parents are being forced to deregister when work is being done but from the safe setting of home."

With increasing numbers of children being sent home due to Covid-19 outbreaks we asked parents what impact does this have on your household if/when your child is sent home (Figure 16). 53% said it would be manageable for their family, 14% told us they cannot work when their child is not able to go to school and 26% said their employer would have to be flexible about their working arrangements for it to be manageable.

In July, 39% of parents said it would be manageable for their family and 20% would require greater flexibility from their employer (albeit with more response options available in July).

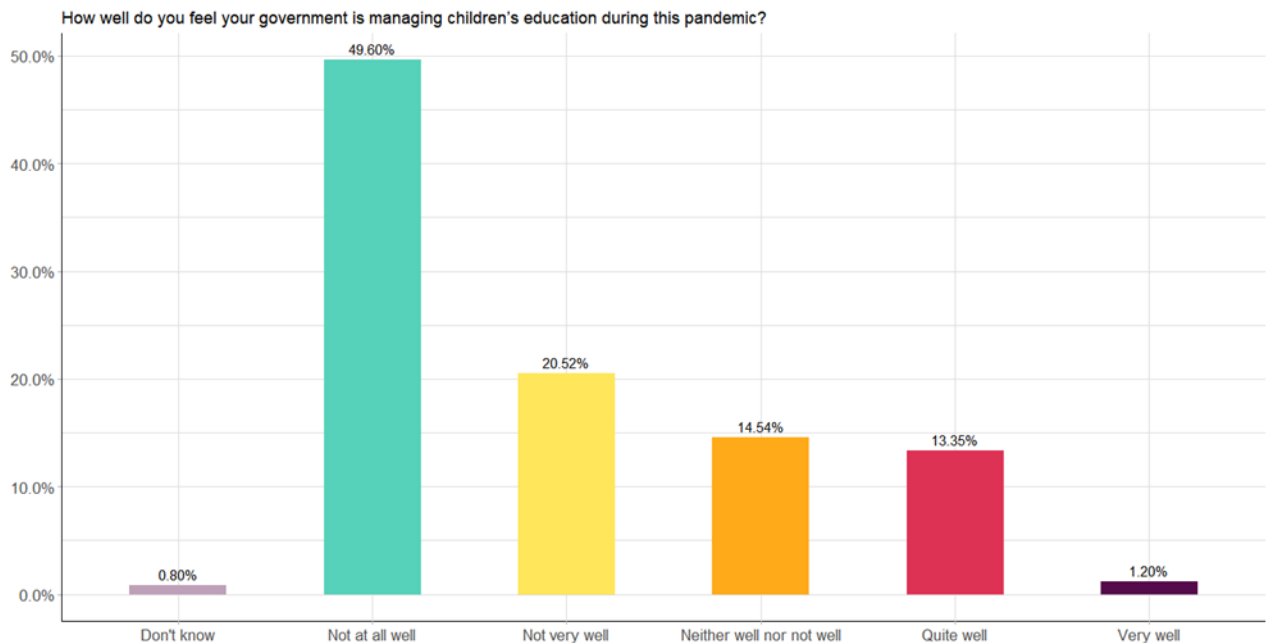
Figure 16



We asked parents how well they felt the government was managing children's education during the pandemic (Figure 17). 50% of parents do not think the government is managing children's education at all well and a further 21% not very well. 1% say very well and 13% quite well.

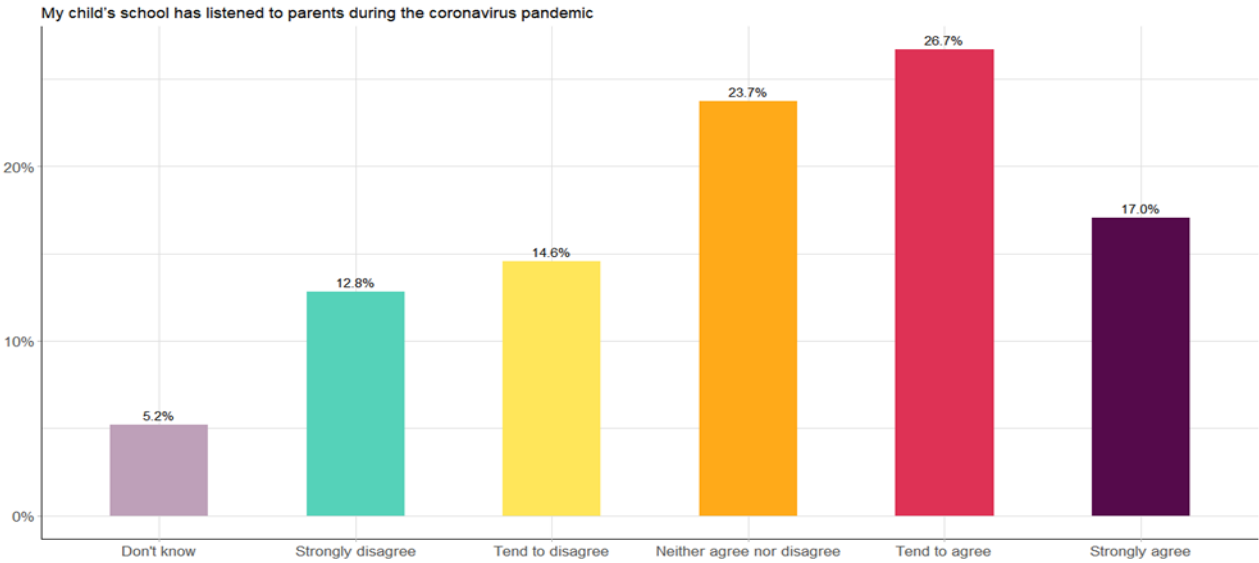
In July, 4% of parents said not at all well and 25% not very well. 3% said very well and 14% quite well.

Figure 17



We asked parents whether they felt their child's school have listened to parents during the pandemic (Figure 18). 44% of parents agree to a greater or lesser extent that their child's school has listened to parents compared with 27% tending to disagree or strongly disagreeing. In July, 46% of parents agreed and 28% disagreed.

Figure 18



Finally, we asked parents whether they felt the government have listened to parents during the pandemic (Figure 19). 55% of parents strongly disagree and 21% tend to disagree. 9% agree that the government has listened to parents during the pandemic.

In July, 10% of parents agreed the government was listening to parents and 71% disagreed with 48% of those strongly disagreeing.

Figure 19

