



# Chesswood Junior School School Expansion – Data Overview

## Introduction

We would like to extend our thanks to all families completing the school expansion questionnaire. We received 381 responses accounting for more than half of our families. Parents have shared in excess of 1000 questions and comments. We have started an FAQ document to answer the questions posed by parents this morning. We would expect that document to be available for parents from tomorrow – it is likely we will release an initial document to get some questions answered and then update in the coming days – there are over 1000 after all 😊. We would like to thank the very many families who wrote so many kind and supportive comments, they are greatly appreciated and gave the team a real boost.

Any review of the news over the weekend and this morning clearly indicates mounting issues between Government, teaching unions, the Children’s Commissioner and the British Medical Association to name a few – clearly there are strongly held and diametrically opposed views in many cases – this is a massive disappointment to schools who have been caught right in the middle. We hope those in authority will recognise that collaboration in the interests of locals schools, communities and families throughout England is the only viable way forward.

We have taken the decision to keep planning and assume school expansion will continue from 1<sup>st</sup> June giving as much time as possible to communicate with parents for booking etc. It is important for all parents to recognise that our ‘best laid plans and risk assessments’ may need adjustment in the coming days in response to Government or Local Authority decisions. We will seek to communicate with you to ensure you have local understanding of the factors and decisions being made at Chesswood Junior School in preparation whatever the outcomes may be and to help you compare and contrast messages shared through the media.

## Attendance from 1<sup>st</sup> June

We can be confident that less than 75% of families, regardless of year group, would take up a school place from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. It is important to confirm two key points at this stage:

- Only Year 6 (aside from Key worker and vulnerable children) will potentially attend from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- The decision to return a child to school at any point during the summer term sit entirely with the family. Whatever attendance decision is made by the family at any point in the summer term, school will support<sup>1</sup>

If you had the chance for your child to attend school, regardless of year group, from June 1st, would you agree to sending them to school?

[More Details](#)

Yes	146
Maybe	134
No	98

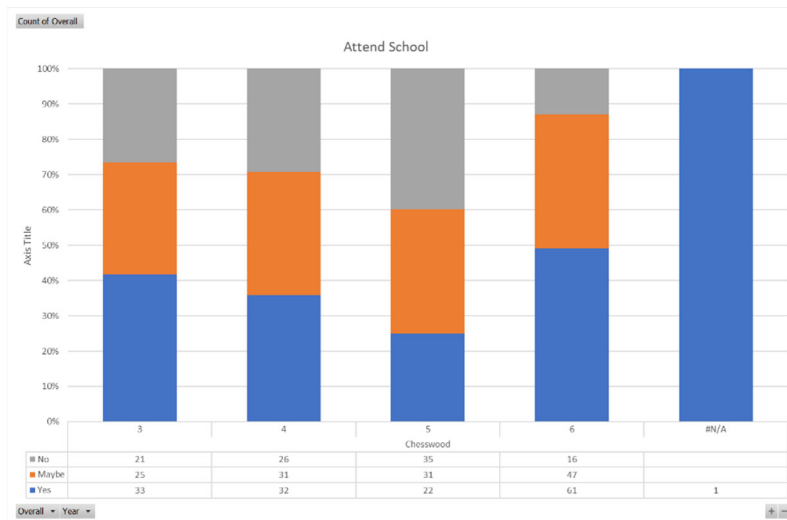


<sup>1</sup> Unless there are significant safeguarding concerns.



### School Expansion – Data Overview

When we look at specific year groups, it is clear that families with children in Y6 are more likely to accept a place from 1<sup>st</sup> June. At this stage we know we cannot fit more than 12 children in any given classroom at 2m distancing (4 M<sup>2</sup> per child). This, therefore, requires three classroom spaces for every class group i.e. 6 classes will require 18 classrooms. On that basis, we know we plan to rota classes from 1<sup>st</sup> June<sup>2</sup> to ensure we can secure correct staffing levels in school and maintain online learning for the majority of children not in school, among other things. The ‘maybe’ selection will prove to be an important aspect as the numbers who may or may not arrive could vary significantly impacting directly on staff and rooms required. We will create a booking form for Y6 parents in the coming days so we can be more certain of the numbers who will take up a school place initially. Of course, parents will be able to adjust bookings either to confirm or cancel original bookings – we really do know that things must remain flexible 😊



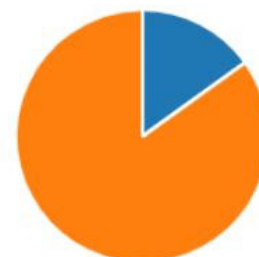
### Siblings

There are a small group of children (15%) that have a sibling in school. For families with siblings there would likely be a lower acceptance of school places if one child could attend and the other could not. This is perfectly understandable and we will accommodate whatever attendance pattern supports the family best i.e. need to separate them or else! Or need them together as they really help each other out! Of course some siblings swing between those extremes multiple times per day 😊

Do you have a second child at Chesswood?

[More Details](#)

- Yes 57
- No 321



<sup>2</sup> Subject to Government and Local Authority Decisions



### School Expansion – Data Overview

. If one child was able to secure a school place and the second was not - would you accept the place for one child and not the other?

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes	27
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Maybe	10
<span style="color: green;">●</span> No	20



### Drivers for returning to school

The most important drivers from our lists are by far children’s learning and mental health. However, we also note the important and critical responses for parents who

- need to attend work to earn money and satisfy financial commitments, this has been a significant concern of school leaders.
- Are struggling with their own mental health needs – this may be new and as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, or it may be an enduring situation that Covid-19 has exacerbated. Our ‘Keeping in Touch’ system is designed to support both parents and children enduring and struggling with stress, worry or anxiety – we hope the contact and sign posting is providing useful support in such cases.

. Which of the following key factors would drive your decision for your child to attend school and how important is that key factor to you and/or your child.

[More Details](#)

