

Impact of Covid-19 on Children's Language, Educational and Socio- emotional Skills

July 2023 - Newsletter

We are now finishing the second year of the ICICLES project. Thank you all for your continued support!

In this newsletter we will share with you what we have been working on and the preliminary findings of the online questionnaire we asked all parents/carers to answer this year.

What have we been working on?

- In September 2022 we started the second year of the ICICLES project. Eight new schools joined and many more parents/caregivers signed up their children for the project.
- In Spring 2023 we asked all parents/carers to complete an online questionnaire. A summary of the findings is presented on the next page of this newsletter.
- In Summer 2023 we asked all schools to complete a language assessment and a socioemotional questionnaire with all participating children. We will look at these assessments and questionnaires during the summer and will share with all of you some preliminary findings, next academic year.

Parent/carer questionnaire 2023

In May 2023 we asked all parents/carers to complete an online questionnaire and these are some of the preliminary findings:

- Most parents/carers are less concerned about children's outcomes than last academic year. When concerns are present, they are about children's reading and writing skills, as well as their emotional development and ability to manage their emotions.
- 83% of parents/carers are not worried about how their children are coping with school this academic year. This is similar to last academic year when 81.5% of parents/carers reported not being worried about how their children were coping with school.
- Over 90% of parents think that their child is supported by the school and his/her needs are met. Some of the reasons why some parents/carers think their child's needs are not met are because the child has additional needs, there is insufficient staff/resources, there is a lack of communication with the school regarding the child's progress, a lack of 1 to 1 support or because complaints are not taken seriously.
- Around 20% of parents/carers have accessed additional support provided by the school. The type of support differs among families but ranges from academic and behavioural support to counselling and groups for parents and carers.
- While most schools provide some additional support to pupils and their families, some parents/carers say that support in the following areas is lacking and would be useful if it was provided:
 - Support with sensory processing difficulties, behaviour, mental health and speech therapy.
 - Sports or non-academic activities.
 - Access to other professionals (e.g. speech and language therapists, psychologists).
 - More or more regular after-school clubs.
 - Activities/clubs during half term.
 - More parents' evenings.



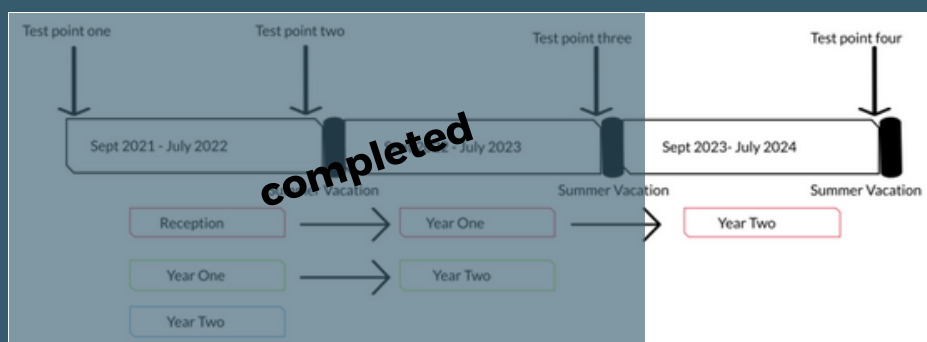
Language and socioemotional assessments



At the end of May 2023, we started the third testing point. We asked all schools to complete a language assessment and a socioemotional questionnaire with all participating children. We will be analysing the data during the summer and will share our findings next academic year.

Next steps

- In September 2023 we will start the third and final year of the ICICLES project. See below for a timeline of the project.



- In this project, we follow children up until they finish Year 2. Therefore, next year only children currently in Year 1 will continue in the project. For children currently in Year 2, this was their last year in their project.
- In Spring 2024, we will ask parents/carers to complete another online questionnaire similar to the one completed this year.

Thank you for your support with the project and we hope you have restful summer break.

This project has been funded by

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact us by email or Twitter using the information below.

