

What kids think

Issue

8

2015

Results of the 2015
Kids' Life and Times Survey

What's this Kids' Life
and Times thing?

It's a big survey about what P7 children
think of school and other things in our lives
now that we are nearly at the end of
primary school. I think it was organised by
the university. We all answered the
questions on the computers at our school.

Oh yeah
I remember,
my school did
it as well.

KLT Survey 2015

Didn't they ask us if we had been happy at school?

Yes, I really liked my school so I was pretty happy. The survey showed that 80% of children said that they were mostly happy at their school. But girls were a bit happier than boys. 83% of girls and 77% of boys said that they had been mostly happy at their school.

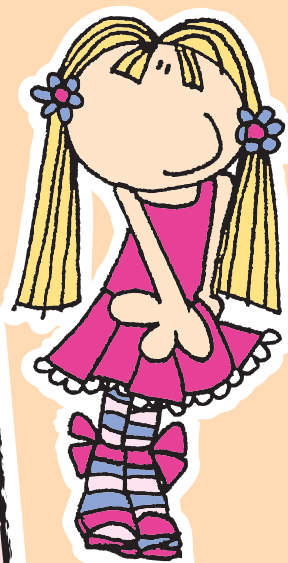
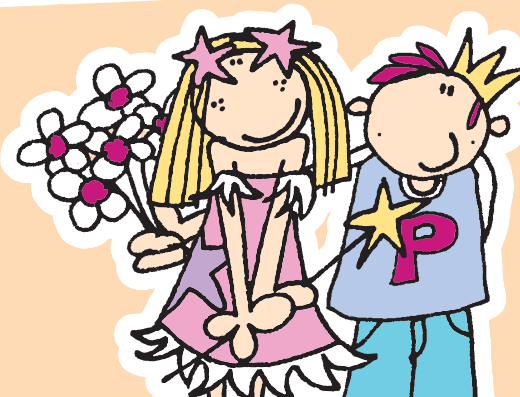
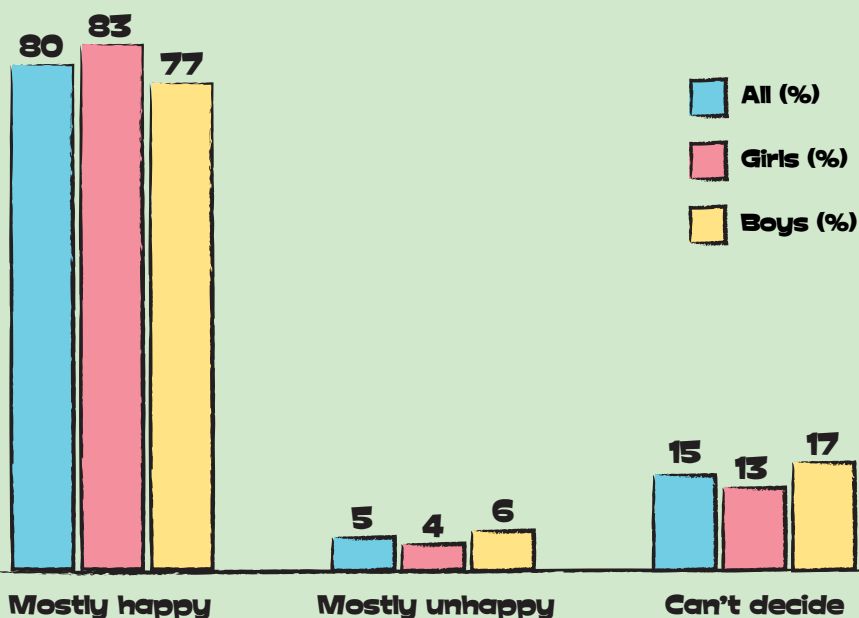


Table 1: Have you been mostly happy or mostly unhappy at this school?





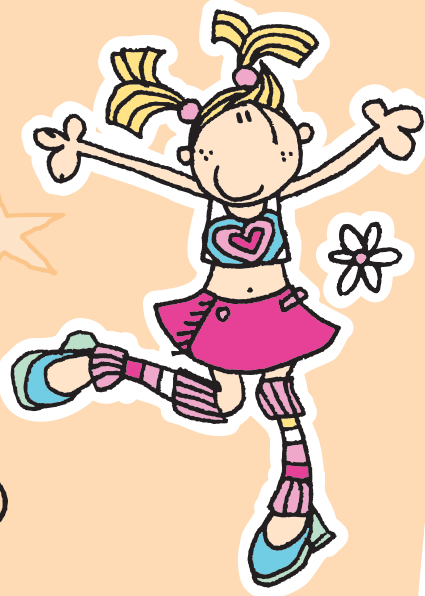
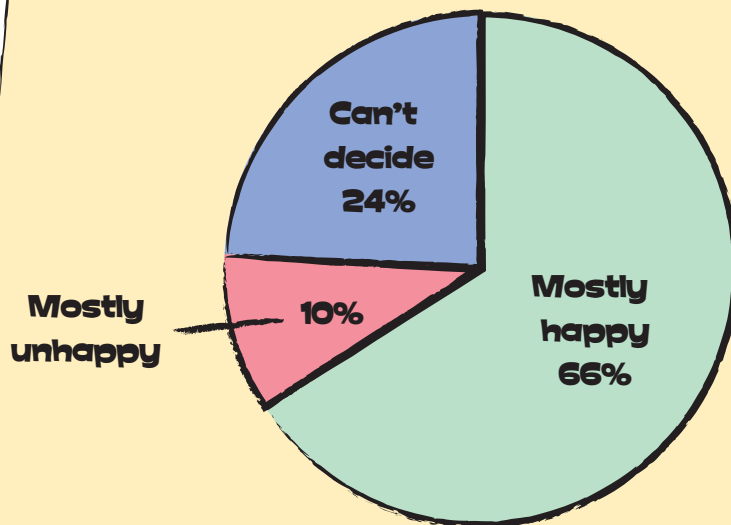
Well I didn't really know what to put down for that question. I mean I didn't hate school but I didn't love it either.



Were you bullied? Although 22% of children said they had been physically bullied 'a lot or a little' in the past 2 months, those who had been bullied were way more likely than everyone else to say that they had been unhappy at their school (10%) or who couldn't decide (24%).



Figure 1: Bullied physically in past 2 months by whether happy or unhappy at school



That's terrible for those kids; it makes me feel really sad. But no, it wasn't bullying with me - I was just always in trouble for something. I don't really know why.



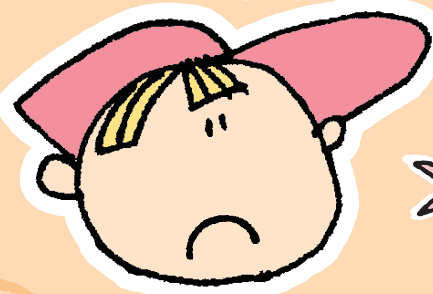
What did you do?



Well last week the teacher said I was cheeky! She told me that I needed a haircut and when I told her that I was allergic to scissors she got a bit cross. Then when I offered to use electric clippers and just shave the whole lot off she got really mad. I think she's a bit stressed to be honest.



Hmm... I think I can see why!





Did you answer those questions in the survey about how some schools help children to cope with stress? You know the question about whether your school does something like Take Ten and Steady Eddy?



Oh was that what it was about!!! I thought it was going to be a maths question. You know like, Take ten Eddies and if eight of them play football how many go swimming?



NO! These are like classes that help children deal to with stress and A Safe Place is somewhere that you can go if you need to calm down. About a fifth of children said they had something like this in their school. But even if schools didn't have these schemes, teachers were still trying to help kids with tips about dealing with stress. 40% of children said that their teacher taught them how to breathe deeply before doing something important.



You mean like dive underwater?



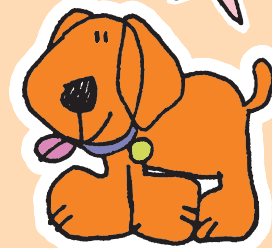
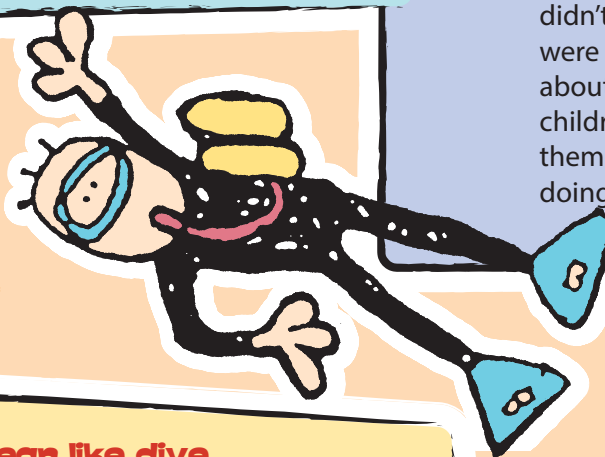
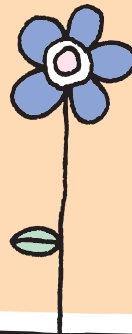
NO you idiot! Before doing anything important that was going to make someone feel nervous. 56% of the children also said that they knew how to go to a place in their imagination where they felt safe and 57% said they could get less stressed by imagining happy thoughts.



That's just what my teacher needs! Maybe I should suggest it to her?



Maybe your teacher is stressed because YOU are a bit annoying AND you look like one of those dogs with hair so long you can't see its face.





I like it like this because I can feel the wind in my hair when I'm running!



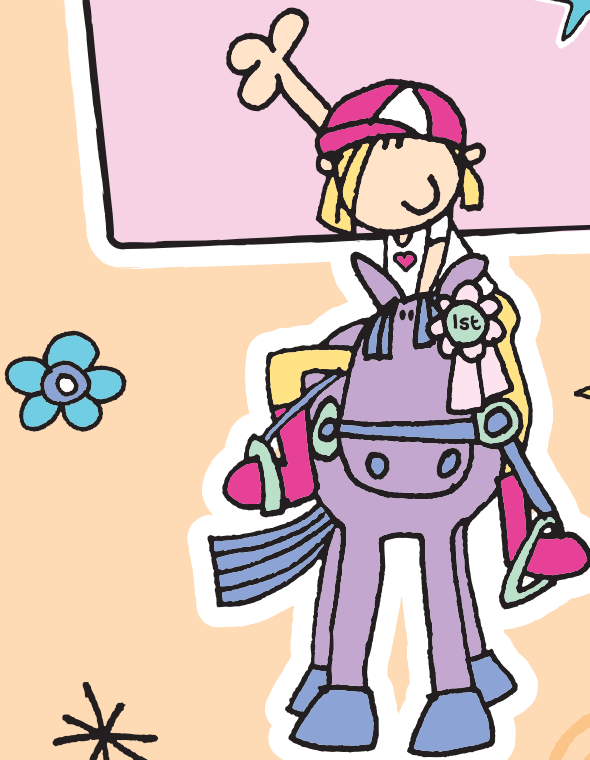
Hey did you answer all those questions about exercise and sport? They were so cool. You know it really annoys me when adults complain that children do nothing except sit in front of a TV or some other technology. The survey showed that 97% of children said that they enjoyed PE classes and 94% said that they enjoyed sport outside school. About three quarters did sports in a club or other organised activity outside school. About half walked or cycled to school and 57% did at least 60 mins of sport or exercise 4 or more times a week.



Does playing FIFA count?



NO, they were asking us about real exercise not virtual sport!





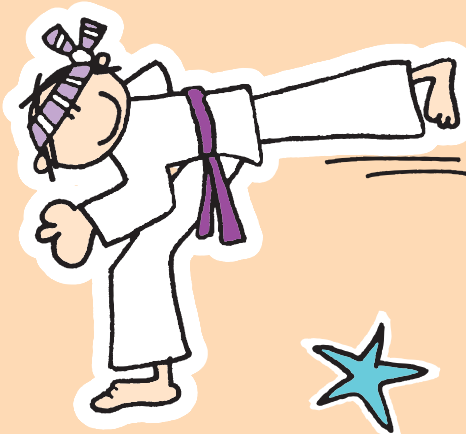
I'm just kidding. I'm seriously into running myself.



Is Usain Bolt your sports idol? The survey showed that 55% of children had a sports idol. This word picture shows all the people that the children wrote about. Names that lots of children listed show up as much bigger than the others.



Who is your sports idol?



That's a bit weird, Ronaldo is in twice.



Well, it's just that some people spelt it with a capital R and some people didn't so it appears twice. Look, you can see that Gerrard and gerrard are in as well and Jessica and jessica. That must be Jessica Ennis.

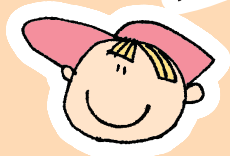


Yes, just like your hair! You know the survey showed that lots of children had sports idols and that nearly half of the children were inspired by famous people to take part in sports. However, it wasn't just famous people who encouraged or inspired them to be active, 40% of children said that they were encouraged or inspired by their teachers.



That's how I got into running! At my school the principal had a running track built that everybody has to run or walk around after break before we go into class. It's brilliant exercise. Especially if you run around screaming waving your arms in the air.

Looks a bit messy I think - get it? Messi????





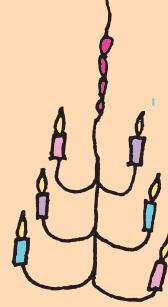
Does everybody do that?



No most people walk around with their hands in their pockets chatting to each other. The one screaming is just me.



I see.

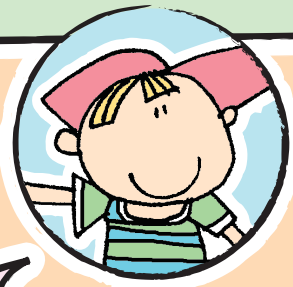


What else was on the survey?



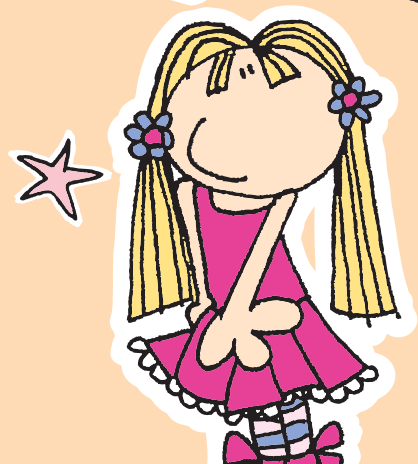
Well they asked us what we thought should be on next year's survey and you can tell from the word picture that things about school are really really important to children because so many kids used that word.

play kind ask safe get think home people favourite
like enjoy transfer time bullied
friends teacher many happy work
teachers family fun
ever feel questions school

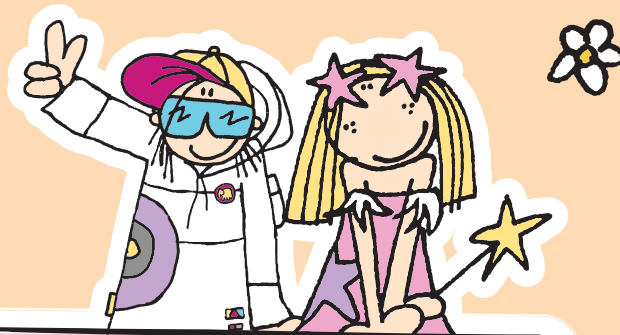


I feel so sorry for your teacher!

I think they should ask about our families. My family is always giving me a hard time and calling me wacky. You can see that loads of children taking part in the survey mentioned family! Look, it's right there just above the e in feel! That's probably way more important than school for most children.



KLT Survey 2015



Kids' Life and Times is an annual online survey of P7 children in Northern Ireland carried out in school. In 2015, 5194 children participated.

The Kids' Life and Times survey is a joint initiative between Queen's University Belfast and the Ulster University and aims to provide an independent source of information on what children think about the social issues of the day.

Check the web site for more information on the survey findings (www.ark.ac.uk/klt) or call the Kids' Life and Times team on 028 9097 5962 with any queries.

In collaboration with Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University

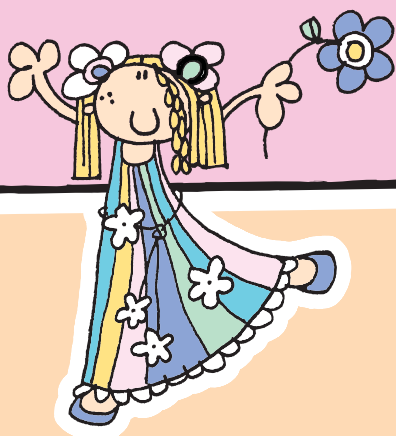
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Kids' Life and Times is part of **ARK**, a resource providing access to social and political material on Northern Ireland. Established in 2000 within the Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast, **ARK** has developed a range of resource materials that inform social and political debate in the region and raise the profile of social science research on Northern Ireland. **ARK's** mission is to make social science knowledge on Northern Ireland easily accessible to the widest possible audience.



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