

Friday 5th September 2014

Newcomen Primary School
Summary of Family Questionnaire Summer 2014

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to complete the Family Questionnaire 2014. Your time is very much appreciated. Please know that each and every response has been read carefully and all comments and suggestions are genuinely valued.

181 questionnaires were returned this year – thank you. Each class teacher reads their own class responses. All questionnaires returned are read by myself during the summer break. A summary of all comments are then shared with staff and governors. A copy of this summary is sent out to all parents and carers in September.

As in the previous four years, your comments and suggestions (and those of your children from the child's page) will form part of our continued whole school improvement work and home school partnership.

The two over arching headings are Pastoral Care and Safeguarding and Teaching and Learning – the core purposes of all schools. The statements used are those used by Ofsted in addition to extra sections which I have included for the purpose of our school and working together with our families.

1. Pastoral Care and Safeguarding:

My child is happy at Newcomen Primary School

My child feels safe at school

Newcomen provides a safe and welcoming environment

My child is well looked after at this school

This schools ensures the pupils are well behaved

The school deals effectively with bullying

The school responds well to any concern I raise

99.3% strongly agree or agree

0.7% strongly disagree/disagree or do not know

(For your information this percentage of 99.3% is the same as 2012 – 2013 with 160 questionnaires returned last year.)

2. Teaching and Learning:

My child makes good progress at Newcomen Primary School

My child is well taught at this school

I am happy with the standards my child is achieving as an individual

My child receives appropriate homework for his/her age

I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

The school is well led and managed

I would recommend this school to another parent

98.6% strongly agree or agree

1.4% strongly disagree/disagree or do not know

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(This percentage of 98.6% is also the same as 2012-2013 with 160 questionnaires returned last year.)

The above percentages are overwhelmingly positive.

In all aspects of Pastoral Care and Safeguarding and Teaching and Learning almost all responses strongly agreed or agreed.

Summary of Child's View 2014

☺ 100% of questionnaires returned (181) evidenced all children feel safe at school.

☺ It was very clear from the children's comments, our children love their school:

What is the best thing about Newcomen Primary School?

(Exact wording of children used throughout...)

'The best thing about our school is everything.

The staff work hard and we work hard.

I enjoyed singing 'I'm a believer.'

The best thing about our school is we all work hard.

Our standards are high.

Teachers work hard for us.

The best thing about our school is that Newcomen does everything that other schools do not.

I would have to say the best thing about our school is it gives us a chance to reach for the stars.

The best thing about our school is that they believe in us.

We get to reach our dreams.

This school gives you hope.

I especially like the mosaics in the break out areas.

When we were reading I am David, and he found his mother.

The teachers, the respect and the manners.

The lessons because the teachers put so much effort into them. I am so proud I go to this school.

We are not a boring school.

The treats we get all the time.

We've got it all.

We work hard then we party!

Having wonderful teachers.

We believe, achieve and succeed and then we party!

The scatter logs are phenomenal.

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Learning all the countries of the flags in Break Out 2.
I love our parties and break times.
The flags at the front of school.
Christmas dinner.
Seven stories trip.
The best thing is we learn a lot.
Our Family Fun Days.
Doing our SATs and achieving.
Enterprise because it was really exciting.
SATs.
The teachers are the best.
The best thing about our school is the teachers are really kind and helpful.
We have had so many opportunities.'

Everyone learns in different ways. What helps you to learn?

'I learn better in silence – I don't like people talking during the lesson.
Working in silence.
Going over it again and again.
Booster classes.
Working with an adult in a small group.
Working in a quiet classroom so I can concentrate.
I like the teacher sitting with me and explaining it again.
Repetition.
A quiet environment helps me to learn.
Being persistently told till I get it right.
Memorising from the board and making notes.'

How could we make our school even better..?

'Have longer playtimes.
Nothing (This school is PERFECT!)
Have a girl's football team.
Nothing. It is amazing.
I don't think we could make our school better.
The school is perfect.
Thank you to our wonderful head teacher for organising all the wonderful things.
Have more scatter logs – we love them.
Have free shops.
Have a class pet.
Getting more classrooms so other children can come to our school.
Have healthy snacks at break time.
Have a 2nd floor with stairs and more classrooms.
More outdoor equipment.
Have a butterfly garden.'

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Have a nature reserve with a bird feeding area.

Y3/4 residential.

Have a MUGA built.

Nothing because our school is perfect.

I don't think we need anything more because this school is better than all the rest.

Make the school bigger so more children can experience our lovely school.

You could not make this school better. Our school is phenomenal.

What more could we possibly ask for? We don't need anything else.

I like it just how it is!!'

Summary of Parent/Carer/Family View

What you think we do really well.

(Exact wording of response used...)

'You provide amazing experiences for the children. Great to get a list of school events so far in advance.

A well run school with high family values.

Hope you have more family days. Newcomen Rocks was superb.

Everything. Looking forward to my two year old starting.

You ensure my child will leave with a good education.

I could not ask for a better primary school for my children.

As a parent, I am always confident that my children are well cared for and safeguarding is a high priority.

Overall view of the school is excellent.

The way you help children when there is a problem.

Family days are just brilliant.

Including families and making a real effort to stand way above other schools.

The best point is supporting children, bringing the best out of them, making sure they achieve all they are capable of and more.

Family days are amazing – please continue them.

Everything is done to the highest standard.

Newcomen Primary School provides outstanding teaching to my child.

The worries box is an excellent idea – thank you.

School makes each child feel valued.

I couldn't ask for better teachers.

Keeping the children safe.

Supporting and encouraging the children to do well.

Open afternoon was excellent – can we have more?

Newcomen Rocks was a great day, thank you.

Children are encouraged and nurtured.

Love the global citizenship evident in and around school.

I always tell friends and family what a lovely school Newcomen is.

Most of all everyone at school cares about the safety and well-being of the children.

The award system is great and seems to really work.

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I think you should be really proud of how well the children behave in and around school.
Newcomen makes the children and families part of a happy family.
My son has excelled at Newcomen Primary.
Parents are well informed.
Providing a well-rounded education.
Parent and community engagement.
I love the way the whole school comes together and everyone gets along like a HUGE family.
I believe my children will reach their full potential at Newcomen Primary School.
Instilling belief in a child's achievements that they can do anything they put their mind to if they work hard.
I am so proud of my child's development since she started at Newcomen.
Teachers are excellent. They are all here to help you regardless.
Family fun days are very well organised.
Newcomen is a friendly school; staff always greet you with a smile.
The teaching standard is fabulous.
Teachers bring out the best in my son.
My child is pushed to achieve the highest standard.
You do an excellent job.
Family learning – the bridge challenge – and trips.
Great selection of school outings with a lot of notice given. Prices are always very reasonable.
School are great at getting the parents involved. Staff are amazing with the children.
I enjoy the weekly newsletters as they keep me informed.
I cannot praise the school enough, I cannot begin to tell you what a massive impact this school has made.
The staff go above and beyond to ensure my child is in a safe and happy environment. I have every confidence the staff bring out the best in all pupils who attend this school.
Absolutely outstanding school.
Communication between parents and teachers is excellent.
I like Newcomen as it pushes children beyond what we hope for.
Since starting Nursery and becoming part of the Newcomen family, the transformation in my daughter is amazing.
Lots of wonderful experiences and learning with lovely teachers.
We all loved Newcomen Rocks.
Excellent teaching and great at sorting problems.
Staff show commitment to helping the children.
The general tone of the school – it always seems to have a positive feel!
Even when a child is getting high grades, teachers push to get even better ones which is great.
I like the way you encourage children to succeed.
E-safety training for parents.
The teaching of the staff and their unbounded enthusiasm!
Events – the community spirit these events bring is fantastic.
School spirit– excellent feeling of community.
Bringing families together.

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My child has always felt valued and as a result was able to achieve her potential in such a caring and supportive environment. The school clearly promotes excellence and enjoyment.

The belief is that ALL will succeed.

Reacting and identifying the learning styles which each child responds best to.

I would like to say thank you for your response to some issues I raised in last year's questionnaire. They have been resolved.

Your standards say it all!

You make learning fun and give children confidence.

The school promotes a culture of hard-working, strong principles, which we fully endorse.

I would like to thank the school for everything and for the support.

What you think we could do to make our school even better:

'Have more family fun days.

Have a teacher of the week certificate.

Have a drama group and a production.

Just keep doing what you are doing.

Cars at peak times. Manage disruptive parking outside school. Cars park on corners where children cross. Corners need to have objects to stop people parking there.

People have had enough warnings about poor parking. Name and shame on the newsletter.

Just keep up the good work.

I like the school as it is. My daughter is happy so I'm happy.

Stop people smoking close to the school gates. It is not nice to walk through a cloud of smoke at the gates.

Can we have an after school open day for working parents?

Everything is in place – brilliant!

Some homework is not marked. More consistency with homework.

Can you text parents to remind of events?

Nothing. It is already a great school.

A water feature or a fountain.

More colour to the outside.

Know new class teacher sooner, please.

I cannot think of anything that could make Newcomen any better and look forward to my child returning in September.

More feedback on weekly spellings – how many they get right each week.

Please can we stop children playing with balls before school starts?

Cleaning and cookery classes.

Continue to maintain the current standards of care and teaching.

Invite parents into literacy/numeracy classes so we can help at home with homework.

Ensure those who are not disabled do not take up the disabled parking spaces.

Invite parents into assemblies.

Make more use of the website: events/letters. Use technology for online homework.

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Homework club for Y3 and Y4.
Nothing, you are amazing.
Have an entrance from Avon Rd.'

Thank you again for your comments and responses. Please know that suggestions to make our school even better will be taken on board in the coming year. Your positive and thoughtful words are really appreciated and I thank you for your wonderful support and acknowledging all that we do here at Newcomen Primary School. We are here to give your children (our most precious asset) the very best possible start in their education journey.

Warmest wishes,
Miss Pusztai, Staff and Governors of Newcomen Primary School