

## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you and your children a warm welcome back to Newcomen Primary School and the new school year. I would also like to welcome our new members of staff: Miss Morzik (Y3), Mrs Norris (Y5) and Mr Beckett (Y5/6) to Newcomen Primary School.

We wish Mrs Pugsley much happiness in her new post at Yarm Preparatory School and much success to Miss Jackson as she commences her training to become a teacher.

Curriculum newsletters will be sent out on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. These will detail the topics to be taught this term and give an overview of the content to be covered in other areas of the curriculum. Days for homework and PE will also be given. In addition, planned educational trips for the term will be shared.

Welcome meetings in year groups/teams will take place during the week commencing Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

For your information and convenience dates of planned events for the year will be sent out on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Newcomen Primary School had another extremely successful year culminating in our Family Jubilee Day with you and your children – a day I will remember for many years to come. Thank you to all for making this day such a wonderful success.

*(Please remember 2013 will mark the school's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday – we shall certainly be celebrating in style!)*

Our pupils again achieved extremely high SATs results – a huge well done to our Y6 pupils who have now moved on to their next stage of education.

We are extremely proud to have achieved the externally awarded Basic Skills Award acknowledging our pupils' high standards of attainment in Literacy and Numeracy and overall performance of the school.

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to complete the Family Questionnaire 2012. Your time is very much appreciated. Please know that all questionnaires have been read carefully and shared with staff. Your comments and suggestions are valued. As in the previous two years, your responses (and those of your children from the children's page) will form part of our continued whole school improvement work and home school partnership.

155 Family Questionnaires Summer 2012 were returned.

The two main headings were: Pastoral Care and Safeguarding and Teaching and Learning (the core purposes of all schools).

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Overall Pastoral Care and Safeguarding

99.4% strongly agree or agree

0.6% disagree or do not know

Overall Teaching and Learning

98.4% strongly agree or agree

1.6% disagree or do not know

The above percentages are overwhelmingly positive.

**In all aspects of pastoral care, safeguarding and teaching and learning almost all responses strongly agreed or agreed.**

## Summary of Family Feedback

### What you think we do really well (actual wording used):

'Safeguarding  
Teaching  
Discipline  
Family open day  
Friendly and approachable staff  
Clean and very well presented school building  
Regular updates on activities taking place in school  
Toddler group  
Drop in sessions  
Dinners with children in Nursery  
Children's books in Nursery containing pieces of work  
Teacher advice regarding the following year  
Understanding of children's individual needs  
Range of learning opportunities  
Keeping parents informed  
Children very engaged with school  
Communication between school and parents is fantastic (newsletters, letters and conversations)  
Classes full of happy children  
Treat children in a holistic way  
Very high standards  
My child is safe  
Very pleasant staff  
I think school does really well in everything  
I do not think at present the school could improve on anything  
We can see our child has a great experience at this school  
Communication is excellent. Thank you.  
Safety for all pupils  
Encourage children to think about wider issues - poverty  
I think Newcomen is a lovely school and very well run  
Conscientious staff  
Friendly atmosphere  
Weekly newsletters  
Promotion of weekly spellings  
Relationships  
Parents welcomed into classrooms  
You make sure children get top marks and the work is to the best of their ability  
Excellent library facilities  
Warm friendly atmosphere – makes all the difference  
Newcomen's standards are high  
Keep going forward  
Family activities

Informative consultation evenings – standards are explained  
Teachers welcoming children in each morning  
Security of the building  
Personal support  
Encouragement of pupils to be the best they can  
No discrimination  
Incentives and certificates  
Children are praised for every little achievement  
Listening to parents' views  
At home time the teachers come out of the classroom and praise your child for their progress  
Overall, I think it is a great school  
1 – 1 tuition  
Range of after school activities  
Border of trees around the school  
G and T provision at RCC  
You listen.'

What we can do to make our school even better: (parents' views)

Payable after school child care for working parents  
School website with dates and topics  
More after school clubs for the younger children  
An additional entrance to school  
Family questionnaire to be online  
Regulate parents who monopolise time of the teacher at start and end of the day  
Ensure home reading books are changed more frequently  
More focus on collecting in of homework\*  
More consistency in the amount of homework given. Some homework is too easy.  
More notice of events  
More trips – especially for the younger children  
More educational visits  
Outdoor development: climbing frame\*, woodland, bridge, MUGA, assault course  
More colour outside  
Some children are riding scooters beyond gates/swinging scooters around  
Modern Foreign Languages  
Online notice board  
More information on gifted and talented provision  
Timing of events – please think about working parents

What we can do to make our school even better (children's views):

Trim trail  
Names on pencils and rulers  
Dress up on world book day  
Cookery club, basketball club, football club

More equipment outside  
A nature area  
A pond  
Swimming pool!

Thank you for your suggestions to make our school even better. This term we will set up our school website. Having concentrated on indoor development of our school over the last two years, (our ICT suite will shortly be officially opened) we will now focus on an exciting outdoor development based on your suggestions.

School has reviewed its homework policy. A summary of this will be sent out with the Newcomen Newsflash on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

A number of parents/carers inquired as to the possibility of paid after school care for working parents.

We already run a very successful Breakfast Club from 7.30am to the start of the school day. I shall be sending out a letter on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September to all parents to ascertain the demand for paid after school provision.

This provision would be non profit making but would need to be sustainable and charges would need to cover all overheads including staffing, snacks and equipment. I would appreciate your thoughts and feedback.

I would like to conclude by thanking you again for all Family Questionnaires returned. Thank you also for your extremely kind words of support and the overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Best wishes, Miss Pusztai, the Staff and Governors of Newcomen Primary School