

Friday 4th September 2015
Newcomen Primary School
Summary of Family Questionnaire Summer 2015

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

On behalf of the governing body and all staff at Newcomen Primary School, I would like to wish you a warm welcome back to the new academic year. I look forward to another exciting year of working together with you and your families.

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to complete the Family Questionnaire 2015. 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.

204 questionnaires were returned this year. Thank you.

Each class teacher reads their own class responses. I, personally, read all questionnaires during the summer break and a summary of the questionnaires is then shared with staff and the governing body as part of our continued whole school development work. As in the last five years, a copy of this summary is shared with all parents and carers. At the end of each academic year, I share with our families all the actions undertaken as a direct result of suggestions made by our parents, carers and our children.

The two over arching headings in our Family Questionnaire 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 school ensures the pupils are well behaved

The school deals effectively with bullying

The school responds well to any concern I raise

99.4% strongly agree or agree

0.6% strongly disagree/disagree or does not know

(For your information in 2013 (160 returns) and 2014 (181 returns) the percentage was 99.3% in both years.)

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

99.6% strongly agree or agree
0.4% strongly disagree/disagree or does not know
(In 2013 and in 2014 this percentage was 98.6%).

I am sure you will agree the above percentages are overwhelmingly positive.
In all aspects of Pastoral Care and Safeguarding and Teaching and Learning at
Newcomen Primary School almost all responses strongly agreed or agreed.

Summary of Child's View 2015

In the 204 questionnaires returned, 203 pupils evidenced they feel safe at school. (Question 5)

It was very clear from the children's comments on the child's page that our children love our school. (Questions 1, 2, 3 and 6)

What is the best thing about Newcomen Primary School?
What has been the best part of being in your class this year?
(Exact wording of children used throughout.)

'The hardworking pupils.
Our spectacular family day.
Our school is in the top 1% nationally!
When we all made fresh bread.
Getting the Head Teacher Award for the Courtesy Code of Conduct.
The results.
Speaking in the class assembly.
The best thing is we are one big happy family.
The best thing is we help the teachers.
Going to Ryedale Folk Museum.
The best thing is the celebrations we have.
The dedicated teachers help us learn.
If you were to visit our school, you would see that the best thing is we're a family.
Getting 100% in my spellings.
Getting into school council.
Performing in Newcomen's Got Talent.

Going on our residential to Edinburgh.
We are the best school!
Writing in pen.
The staff because they help you and bring you up the right way.
When we performed on Family day, I was proud because I gave my all.
The MUGA and the scatter logs are the best.
Best moment was when I achieved my Confidence in Water Certificate.
Going to the Oriental Museum in Durham.
Working as a team.
We care about each other. We are all a Newcomen family.
We have our own Newcomen Family.
The teachers are the best.
Being safe.
Miss Pusztai makes sure the school is the very best.
Everything.
We have lovely teachers who help us learn.
My proudest moment was getting my certificate for reading at home 100 times.
Everyday is a new learning experience.
We all believe, achieve, and succeed,
Going on trips and getting the HT award.
We get taught E-Safety.
We have lots of rooms and space.
All the adults are the best.
Getting clever.
Because we are the top school.
Family Day and celebrating British Values.
Staying in the gold pot.
Getting 100% attendance.
Writing lessons in Literacy.
SATs exams.
We have the 10 Commandments.
The staff work so hard for us. I have a variety of fond memories here.
The teachers always try their best to help us learn and understand.
The teachers push you to the limit.
The education here is the best.
It is strict and we learn a lot and have high expectations.
We have loving caring teachers who keep us safe and are there for us.
We have different cultures in our school. Fortunately, we are all treated the same.'

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

(Question 4)

'I learn better in silence.
I like quiet for concentration.
Excellent teachers help me learn.
One to one helps me learn.'

I get lots of support in class.
Booster classes.
To visualise it.
Having a quiet classroom.
Research homework helps me.
Concentrating and getting on with it.
Practising helps me to learn because then I don't forget.
Peace and quiet so I can take things in.'

How could we make our school even better? (Question 7)

'You can't.
I don't think we could.
Get a swimming pool.
Leave it as it is!
Nothing can ever make this school better because it is already perfect the way it is.
Have a school mascot.
Have a school cheerleading club.
Have a Y3/4 residential.
More cookery classes.
To learn an instrument.
Have a gardening club.
Stay at school longer.
Come to school on Saturday.
More family days.
Y1 to go on the scatter logs.
Have flower boxes for Key Stage 1.
We can't make it better because it is excellent the way it is.
It is already phenomenal.'

(By the children of Newcomen Primary School. Exact wording of our children used.)

Summary of Parent/Carer/Family View

What you think we do really well.

(Exact wording of parents and carers used)

'Children are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
The passion the staff have is fantastic. I have never felt so confident in my child's educational placing.
I think very highly of the school and staff and always feel content knowing my children are in a safe and happy environment with lovely staff whilst at school.
The outdoor learning areas are wonderful.
Certificates for reading at home are a great incentive.

I believe my child receives an outstanding education at Newcomen. She has made exceptional progress. I feel totally in touch with her progress, achievements and the levels she is striving towards. Am delighted with all aspects. Homework is varied and enjoyable with excellent feedback given.

I think the communication between school/teachers/parents and carers is maintained brilliantly with the Newsflash and phone calls home so we know our children are safe and cared for.

Newcomen is a school we should all be very proud of and this was overwhelmingly evident at the recent family day – thank you to all for a wonderful day.

All of the extra activities and opportunities which are facilitated for the children are hugely appreciated.

I think the school supports my children and my family very well.

There is a warm family feel with the school and the teachers.

EYFS staff are fantastic. The school is brilliant and secure.

You provide a fantastic learning environment for the children and encourage them all to work together as a team.

You value feedback from parents and carers and you act on that feedback.

You put children at the centre of everything you do.

I think the bond between the teachers and pupils is amazing. Staff have been fantastic with any concerns I have.

Family day is a massive highlight of the school calendar. We love the idea of all families coming together to celebrate what is great about Newcomen.

Breakfast Club is a great option for working parents, thank you.

My daughter has loved running through the school gates for that last two years. That says it all for me.

I think the team spirit of the whole school is excellent and no one feels left out.

I think the school's values are excellent and I like that the children are taught to live by them.

I love the family ethos at Newcomen.

EYFS after school book club was an excellent idea.

Just keep up the hard work. The school is great as it is.

You strive for continual improvement across all areas.

Good communication and professionalism.

Leadership.

I am happy with how the school runs and the teaching is spot on.

Keep up the good work.

Children are very happy and pushed to their full potential.

Overall I think the school is brilliant and the way the school puts the children first.

Caring environment, very engaging.

The care all staff have for all the children is really lovely to see.

Involving all children in learning about different cultures.

Getting whole community involved.

I really have trust in the school. My child is doing very well. Children are happy.

Making parents part of the children's school life.

Newcomen Primary School encourages the pupils to achieve great standards and by having special treats i.e. family Day, puppet shows. All the new play equipment looks really exciting. Really good school.

This is a happy school and maintains strong values of respect and manners.

Fantastic school – proud to be part of the Newcomen family.

You make my children feel very welcome.

Keep the pupils safe.

The school has a tremendous ethos when it comes to behaviour.

My child excels at this school. The level of teaching is brilliant.

You acknowledge positive and good behaviour. A lot of schools focus more on bad behaviour.

The security of the school is excellent.

All aspects of school are fantastic, security, family day are so well organised.

We are delighted with Newcomen Primary School.

Everything is done to the very best standard.

Family days are a joy to look forward to.

The newsletters keep us well informed.

Communication is excellent.

The school is a great school and has a great community feel.

Outstanding academic support.

We all believe that our school couldn't be any better.

Constant improvement to facilities.

Newcomen is a lovely friendly school.

New challenging physical areas in the playground.

After school clubs available.

Global citizenship and British Values events which ensure children are respectful and part of a wider community that extends beyond Redcar.

It is very reassuring that my child loves going to school and thank you for your dedication and valuing all children and parents.

Knowing my child is safe in a caring environment puts my mind at rest.

You are all so motivated and dedicated and I am so proud both my children have had the privilege to be educated at Newcomen Primary School.

Everything is done to the highest standard and I honestly can put my finger on anything that needs improving.

Teaching is of a high standard as shown by children's results and value added.

Reflective management, always striving forward.

You give children a safe, secure environment to learn in and you bring the most out of children to the best of their abilities.

Making parents feel welcome to join in.

My child's transition to Newcomen was quite hard due to bullying in the previous school.

Miss Pusztai and her team made this the best thing she could have ever done.

I could not ask for a better teacher, always ready to help.

The children in school are so well behaved and polite.

Children always come out smiling saying they have had a great day. Well done on making learning such fun.

Every year I think Newcomen couldn't get any better but you do!

Loved the class assembly. So much chance for parental involvement.
I know my child has the best education in the best school.
Parents' views are always taken into account.
I believe that the teachers at Newcomen help the children to believe in themselves, which pushes them to do their best and make them want to improve in everything they do.
I think Newcomen overall is an amazing school. The list is endless.
The children are a credit to the school – how well behaved they are.
Keeping my children safe and also making them enjoy receiving an education.
Celebrating success.
My child is really happy at this school and I would not want her at any other school.
Newcomen has made me and my son feel very welcome.
Both my children really enjoy being pupils at Newcomen and have both flourished whilst here.
Breakfast Club is brill.
Making children feel equal.
Being a working parent, it is enormously helpful to know at the beginning of the school year the diary dates so I can plan time off pro-actively.
Excellent staff/pupil relationships.
Sense of belonging and enrichment activities.
Instilling a pride in work and of achievement.
The songs at the family day were brilliant. Our anthems for home are 'You're the Voice' by John Farnham and of course 'Newcomen Family'.
School is fantastic and we are proud to be part of Newcomen family.
All aspects of the school are fantastic, security, family days are so well organised and allow the children to celebrate their hard work over the year.
My child loves coming to school which makes me happy.
Spelling tests each week are brilliant and although quite difficult some weeks, you push them to succeed.
The security of the school is excellent.
Parents' evenings are always very informative. Really happy with the school.
You try and make everyone feel part of one big happy family.
The school is a very welcoming place. Staff are always approachable.
Everything!
I believe that Newcomen works very hard to ensure all our children have the best possible education which in turn gives them the best prospects for their future.
Newcomen Primary School is the best school ever.
The biggest things that regularly shine through for me are the values of the school. They are so well instilled in all of the pupils that the behaviour is impeccable. The leadership of the school should be enormously proud of this, and it is very clear to me that Newcomen is the outstanding primary school in Redcar and Cleveland.'

(By the parents and carers of children of Newcomen Primary School. Exact wording used.)

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

'Have family fun days on a Saturday so people who work Monday to Friday can attend.

Or have them start later so working parents can attend.

As a parent, I don't feel there is anything that could improve the school although my daughter would really like a girl's football team!

Keep up the excellent work. I think you are doing a brilliant job.

It is quite bad trying to cross roads to get to school because of parked cars.

I believe the school is a wonderful place for my children to be in. They and I believe this school couldn't be any better.

More opportunities for parents to come in and work with their children. Loved building rockets.

Keep up the good work.

There is nothing that Newcomen needs to do that would make it any better as it is phenomenal!

A text service because some of the messages don't get through.

Parent mail has never worked since it was set up. Would an email system be more useful?

Please can we have more classes for parents in EYFS? They are really helpful.

Classrooms are a bit stuffy, could do with more ventilation.

Explain reward system of coloured pots to parents and carers. *(Please note this reward system is explained in the welcome meetings and explained in the curriculum newsletter and at consultation events.)*

Harder, more challenging homework.

Get a second set of gates to enter via Avon Road.

Nothing. You set a very good example to the pupils.

Have extra lessons in school on how to behave at home!

Stop people parking dangerously.

Like all schools parking is still an issue. Not sure how you can sort this though. Can you get a crossing assistant on Trent Road?

Keep doing what you do. It's one big family.

Would like to see spelling results in spelling books that come home.

After school clubs e.g. netball, judo are very good. Could these be extended to some of the younger children?

Nothing, it's perfect.

Homework Club.

Beamish trip for older children

Y4 Carlton Trip.

The school is perfect. Can it be made any better?

Properly enforce uniform policy for consistency.

You do not need to do anything more.

More photographs on the website.

More family days.

Continue to do everything you are already doing.

Stop people parking on footpaths and yellow lines.

Nothing. It's perfect the way it is.

A water feature.

Be more aware of separated parents and ensure both get information i.e. trips, newsletters.

After school club like breakfast club. (*A letter regarding this will be sent out next week.*)

This is the most difficult question on this questionnaire!!'

(By the parents and carers of children at Newcomen Primary School. Exact wording used.)

Thank you again for your comments and responses. Suggestions to make our school even better will be taken on board to be undertaken during the year. May I suggest that you keep this summary as a reference point and measure for the end of the year. I will, as always, keep you informed of all actions undertaken as the year progresses.

I cannot stress how appreciated your positive and thoughtful words really are 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

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