

Monday 5th September 2016 Newcomen Primary School
Summary of Family Questionnaire Summer 2016

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 2016 – 2017. I look forward to another year of working together with you, your families and your children, our most precious asset.

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to complete the Family Questionnaire 2016. 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. 179 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 write a detailed summary which is then shared with all staff and the governing body as part of our continued whole school development work and genuine commitment to working together as a school family. As in the last six years, a copy of this summary is shared with all parents and carers.

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 questions 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

99.4% strongly agree or agree

0.6% strongly disagree/disagree or does not know

(For your information in 2013 and 2014 this was 99.3% and in 2015 99.4%).

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

99.7% strongly agree or agree

0.3% strongly disagree/disagree or does not know

(In 2013 and in 2014 this percentage was 98.6% and in 2015 it was 99.6%).

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 2016

In the 179 questionnaires returned, 179 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 and are proud of their school.

(Questions 1, 2, 3 and 6)

What has been your proudest moment/achievement this year?

What is the best thing about Newcomen Primary School?

What has been the best part of being in your class this year?

What is the best thing about our school.

(Exact wording of children used throughout.)

'Doing our class assembly because I got my lines right and had fun.

I am proud of my times tables.

The best thing is everything because the staff keep us safe.

I am proud of when we got Leonardo because it was the best day ever and it made me feel special.

Reading 250 times and getting my name on the board.

Getting 12/12 for my spellings every week.

The best part of our school is everything.

I am proud of the Christmas performance because I sang my heart out.

Receiving the Head Teacher award for doing my best.

Mastering the KS1 curriculum.

Family day and school council.

Reading 300 times at home and getting my certificate.

Learning that the crocodile eats the biggest number in maths.

Every class gets a chance to be proud and do their class assembly.

I love the school prayer.
We have been in all the newspapers including the Times.
The best thing about our school is our Courtesy Code of Conduct.
Receiving the Head Teacher Award for the Word Family List, I felt very proud.
I felt phenomenal getting 37/40 in my reading test.
When I received mathematician of the week, I felt euphoric.
Schools sports day.
When I won my race on sports day, I felt very happy.
Feeling welcome every morning.
Being able to rely on people.
Singing in Newcomen's Got Talent.
I love the MUGA and the scatter logs.
Our Family Wall is amazing. It has all our photos on it.
The best thing is when we adopted Nishant and we raised £546.80.
Working together to achieve Leonardo.
The flags in Learning Area 2 which represents our shared families and cultures.
Our enthusiastic Head Teacher.
The best part has been working hard in our class assembly.
Getting full marks in my English and Maths assessments.
School makes me proud of myself.
My proudest moment is getting 100% attendance.
Improving on my spelling scores.
My proudest moment was sports day.
I have very fond memories of One World Our World and learning about different cultures and religions.
Newcomen Primary School gives me a better future.
At Newcomen Primary School we aim for the stars.
Getting 100% in my spellings 3 weeks in a row.
Making our wonderful waterfalls for homework.
Getting to have the phenomenal teachers that I have,
Being in the football team.
All the caring teachers. I am really lucky.
Leonardo is our mascot.
Phenomenal teachers that push me to complete what I had to complete.
The best thing about our school is everything.
Nothing could make it better. Our school is as good as it can be.
It is phenomenal. It can't be made better.
I like learning things and succeeding.
The best thing is Lock Down because it keeps us safe.
Spellings are phenomenal.
Singing in front of our parents and having Leonardo.
I love being in Y1 because we tasted mango.
Visiting Stewart Park.
The flags of all the countries of people in our school.
Although Newcomen Primary School has many positive qualities, the most helpful one is that it gives me a better future.'

**Everyone learns in different ways. What helps you to learn?
(Question 4)**

‘The Magic 12.
Visual learning clues to help me remember.
A quiet learning environment.
Reading as much as I can.
Drafting pieces of work.
Teachers teach me the times tables and the Word Family List. That helps me to learn.
Shared work.
Reading at home.
Weekly research homework.
Calmness.
Not being disturbed when I am working.
One to one helps me to learn.
My enthusiastic dedicated teachers.
Test Base.
Our Writing Checklist and our Word Family List.
Class discussions because it helps me to understand.’

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

‘A greenhouse to grow plants and fruit and vegetables.
Get a statue of our school.
Can we have a water fountain for the birds please?
Build Y7 and Y8 classrooms so we can stay here longer!
Have a KS1 sports club run by Mr Beckett.
Have a sculpture.
Smaller goal posts.
Have pink candy floss.
After school cookery club.
Learn how to play tennis.
You don’t have to. The best school ever!
Nothing. Our school can not be made any better.
Y5 swimming lessons.
Nothing. Our school is as good as it could be.
It is phenomenal. It can’t be made better.’

(Exact wording used by the children of Newcomen.)

Summary of Parent/Carer/Family View

What you think we do really well.

(Exact wording of parents and carers used)

‘There is always a feeling of togetherness from the staff and that the pupils are really important.

The Christmas KS2 carol service is amazing.

Newcomen is a fantastic school and my child really enjoys coming to school.

I love the family values Newcomen holds by hosting family fun days.

You listen to the children’s needs.

Giving the children different experiences.

I think the school is fantastic. It really cares about the children and parents. Am very impressed with the outdoor features. All the teachers are lovely.

Fantastic school – brilliant staff in all areas. I can go to work at ease knowing both my children are safe in a happy environment.

Everything! My child is really happy at this school.

Parental involvement is a fantastic part of the school.

You provide opportunities allowing the children to show how proud they are of their school.

I think you show you care about the pupils really well.

The school communicates with parents really well.

You make our children enjoy going to school. They learn to the best of their ability without putting too much pressure on them.

In my eyes the school is great – it is well run and the children are always happy.

Community events have been really great and allow parents and children to be proud to be part of Newcomen. The hard work of everyone is appreciated.

The school is a fantastic environment for learning.

My child gets the best results possible because of the respectful relationships with staff.

My child loves coming to school, as does her sister and it is because she feels happy, safe and listened to.

You motivate the children really well. My son is forever telling me new HLV words.

The children always want to impress Miss Pusztai and make her proud.

Everything.

Everything about the school is positive and I know my child is safe.

Newcomen Primary School has excellent relationships with parents.

The school strives to involve parents and carers into being part of the Newcomen family by opening its doors and welcoming us into their hearts.

I love, love, love the way my child’s English book is marked. His teacher must spend hours marking.

School provides a community culture and family involvement.

Lovely friendly teachers, very safe school. Each year my daughter comes on so much.

Newcomen embeds strong moral values and encourages children to become positive global citizens. High expectations in all aspects with the highest quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. Believe Achieve Succeed.

The list is endless. Newcomen is phenomenal!!

All staff give 100% to the children all the time.

Thank you to the kitchen staff and lunchtime staff for their hard work and care towards the children.

Newcomen overall is a great school and I never have anything negative to say.

Bringing families together.

The standard of teaching. My child has come a long way since joining your school.

You treat the pupils with consideration and respect. Expectations are very high but this is supported with the highest standard of teaching enabling expectations to be met.

The passion and commitment you give to the pupils and the support you give to parents and carers.

Everything!

I think the reading certificates are great. They encourage the children to read more at home.

I adore this school. I know that when I drop my child off on a morning she is cared for and loved just as she is at home.

Miss Pusztai has an open door policy which is 100% true.

The school is fantastic all round.

Homework gives me an opportunity to see my child's progress and it is a pleasure to watch her independently complete tasks.

At Newcomen you have made myself as a parent happy in the knowledge that my child is part of a great school.

I like that all classes get to do a class assembly – it gives each child a chance to shine.

Every member of staff is fantastic and nothing is too much trouble.

Recognising each child as an individual.

I am very happy with this school and definitely feel it will give my child the best start in life.

Communication is great.

Overall a fantastic school with great staff.

All staff do that extra mile for each and every child in school.

Newcomen see my child as an individual and as a whole. The teachers take pride in my child which makes me proud to be part of the school.

The school is great in bringing everyone together as a community.

In my eyes, Newcomen is like a big family where everyone is looked after, respected and happy.

I find the school very family friendly.

The staff are fantastic and always treat the children as if they are their own.

Every teacher is brilliant with the children knowing their individual needs.

Newsletters every week are great with information vital to your child.

Making parents and children feel welcome from the minute we walk in the door.

It's a lovely school. It helps children reach their goals.

Very committed staff.

Strong leadership.

This is an excellent school and I cannot fault it in any way.

The school is well structured and my children enjoy all aspects of school life.

Newcomen primary School is like one big happy family and promotes a community culture.

The teaching staff are very attentive to the needs of the children.

Amazing :)

Communication at the office, whenever I have had to ring, has been brilliant.

Teachers are fantastic.

Discipline.

You provide a breakfast club which we really appreciate.

It is very clear that my child is genuinely loved by school staff, as are all the children.

I have been very impressed with how school work the children to keep them safe, e.g. online safety and practising 'lock down'.

I love the child's view on the family questionnaire.

The school believes in the children and gives them the skills and knowledge to succeed.

Amazing class assembly – gives parents and carers a chance to feel proud.

I couldn't recommend the school highly enough. It is really fantastic and more importantly the children love it!

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to ALL.

Great interaction with school and families.

You set high standards and achieve these through the encouragement and positive teaching environment established.

You encourage family participation and provide continual events to enable us as parents to join in our child's education. You are prepared to discipline and hold difficult conversations – not easy to hear but absolutely respected.

My child always receives his homework when expected and it is always marked with comments which I believe encourages him to continue to complete it. Feedback in children's books is always lovely to see with lots of constructive and positive comments.

My child is very proud of his books.

Information which comes home regarding events etc is very comprehensive and lots of notice is given compared to many other schools.

With regards to this moment in time, I think the continuation of religious learning has shown my children that it is not to be feared and that not all religions are extremists.

I think this is an excellent school that takes pride in not only teaching the children but also how well they do. I know how much all the children are thought of by all teachers and I also like the rewards they receive (certificates for reading, times tables, etc). My daughter is doing extremely well at this school and is pushed the extra mile. It really is a fantastic school. Thank you.

Involvement of parents – we always feel like we know what is going on in school and love being invited in the assemblies and parent consultations etc. Appropriate focus on academic attainment – this is important to us and we like that school's expectations are high - this isn't reflected in other local schools.

Teaching! The standard of education and learning is excellent. The balance between hard slog and allowing the children to enjoy their learning is such a challenge – but you get it just right.

Approach and dedication – you care and as a parent it's important I know this.

You listen. If I have concerns, there is someone there to listen and ACT. Thank you.

Newcomen Primary School is a fantastic school which of course teaches our children the skills and education they need in their future, but it also teaches the fundamentals of life – good behaviour and being respectful of others. The ethos of the school goes above and beyond my expectations of a primary school. I am so pleased my child is a pupil here. Thank you to everyone that works at Newcomen Primary School.’

(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:

‘Keep up the good work. No improvement needed.

Non-uniform days occasionally for special occasions.

Could the entrance to the school be widened?

I don’t think that the school needs to do anything to make it better. It’s perfect as it is.

More parking facilities.

Have more charity fun events.

I missed the children singing on our Family Day.

Black shoes for school. It looks better.

Parents and carers to be informed by texts.

We enjoyed the Family Day although the children’s performances were a highlight for us in previous years.

A crossing assistant at the main entrance to school.

More homework.

Nothing.

Nothing at present.

Could we have a way of rewarding children to achievements outside of school? Maybe with a section from the Newsflash?

More on site parking. Other than that, school is great.

Absolutely nothing. Couldn’t get any better.

Thank you for considering working parents with Family Day on Saturday. Can we have more? I do appreciate it is difficult to accommodate everyone.

More bingo evenings! We love them.

Non-uniform dress up days on World Book Day and Red Nose Day.

Display teacher’s names and class numbers on the outside doors. This would be helpful when adults other than parents are collecting children at the end of the day.

I can’t think of anything right now.

Please can we have our Family Day back on a Friday so our children can perform the songs they work so hard on? It is a wonderful time when they are all standing proud of themselves and so are we.

I'm appreciative that some parents may not be able to attend Family Day during the week. You always give lots of notice. Please can we have it back on a week day?
More variety in KS1 homework, i.e., topic related questions.

Continue with how things are.

I think the school meets the needs of all the children and don't feel I could think of anything to make it better at present. Thank you.

Parent mail is not very accessible. Information would be better sent as an email, which the school has.

Better electronic communication (text/e-mail.)

There are no improvements that I can think of that need to be made.

It is a fantastic school and I am glad I chose it for my children.

Wear high visibility jackets while on school trips.

Have a vegetable patch/greenhouse for children to grow their own vegetables.

Stop parents from blocking the school gate and smoking there.

Swimming for KS1 children.

Nothing. It's perfect.

Nothing. Overall I think Newcomen is a great school and I never have anything negative to say.'

Thank you again for your comments and responses; we appreciate the time taken to complete the questionnaire. As has been evidenced over the last six years in our genuine home school partnership, where possible, your suggestions to make our school even better will be taken on board. May I suggest that you keep this summary as a reference point and measure for the end of the year. I will, however, as the year progresses, keep you informed of all actions undertaken.

I cannot stress how appreciated your positive and thoughtful words really are and I thank you for your ongoing support and acknowledgement of 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 Puszta, Staff and Governors of Newcomen Primary School

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