

Friday 6th September 2019
Newcomen Primary School

Summary of Family Questionnaire Summer 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

On behalf of the Governing Board and all staff at Newcomen Primary School, I would like to wish you the warmest welcome back to the new academic year 2019–2020. I am so looking forward to another year of working together with you, your families and your children – they are, and will always be, our most precious asset.

Last year was another amazing year for us all and Our Mighty Newcomen Family Day epitomised all that we stand for together. Thank you so much to everyone who was able to complete our Family Questionnaire. Please know that I have read each and every response carefully and all comments and suggestions are noted and genuinely valued. 229 questionnaires were returned this year – thank you so much for your time.

Each class teacher reads their own class responses. I read all questionnaires during the summer break and then write a detailed summary which is shared with all staff and the Governing Board as part of our continued whole school development work and genuine commitment to working together as a school family. As in the last nine years, a copy of this summary is shared with you, our 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 other questions which the Governing Board have included for the purpose of our school and working together with our families.

Pastoral Care and Safeguarding: 99.6% Agree

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.

Teaching and Learning: 99.9% Agree

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
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.

Summary of Child's View 2019 (exact wording of children used throughout)

100% of pupils said they feel safe at school.

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

‘When the teacher gives a short input.
If it is quiet and the desks are facing the front, I learn more effectively.
When I understand the method and have support from the teacher.
AfL from assessments and a peaceful environment.
Reading aloud to help me edit my work.
Having weekly spellings to learn.
Making mistakes and trying again.
Seeing working out on the board.
My teacher showing lots of examples.
Reading the question 3 times so I understand.
When the adults talk me through it on a 1-1.
Using my fingers to count.
Teachers giving me clear instructions.
Reading to further my knowledge – knowledge is power!
Constant repetition helps me learn because it helps my memory to not forget it.
Seeing things helps me to visualise what I have to do and helps me concentrate.
A quiet area and sitting by myself.
Repeating it lots of times to get it to stick in my head.
When I’m in a completely quiet environment.
Repeating something until I know it. When someone says it once, it doesn’t go in my head but when they say it over and over again, then it goes in my head.
Working in a small group.
Repetition and praise.
The writing checklist.
A quiet working atmosphere.
To help me learn, I read the question three times.
Doing my Magic 20. To learn the Magic 20 and learning your Word Family List.
A tranquil place to help me learn and doing extra work at home.
Following the school rules and using the Writing Checklist.
Practising lots and trying example questions before writing the answer.
Writing Checklist, Magic 20 and a quiet learning area.
When the teachers go over it lots of times.
By releasing energy at break time.
Communicating with others about it helps me understand how to do something.
If I have questions, I will ask until my piece of work is perfect.’

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?

‘We have the kindest and most generous teachers ever.

Getting through SATs with no struggle.

Everything. The teachers are just amazing.

My amazing wonderful teachers who taught me phenomenal lessons.

Singing in the choir has boosted my confidence.

How much the teachers care about us.

Winning Newcomen’s Got Talent with my best friend.

Performing a Dance on Family Day.

Helping get our statue of Leonardo with School Council in my last year at primary school.

Teachers always think about us.

Selling our Enterprise products on Family Day.

The best part is going on residential.

Raising £448 on Enterprise for SARA.

Going down the zip-wire at Mount Cook.

We got to go and see War Horse.

The super encouraging teachers who push you to do your best.

The staff who believe in us.

Getting a pen for my beautiful handwriting.

Having a phenomenal teacher and raising money for War Horse.

Our brand new sculpture of Leonardo saying simul ut unum in Latin.

Our staff are inspiring – they have perseverance and resilience.

English because I LOVE grammar.

Going to the rounders tournament.

The school’s connections with our family members and our amazing quotations all over the school.

The best part was going to see the magical performance of War Horse.

I am most proud of singing with the choir on Family Day.

The live band Apollo and being rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

My sponsored spell score.

The money school spends on us.

The best part was learning about Grandpa Mandela.

Best thing about our school is Leonardo and the teachers.

Best thing is meditating.

Doing well in my phonics test.

Standing up and saying my lines in our assembly

Singing on Family Day and our statue of Leonardo.

You make our school a close family.

You keep us safe.

Learning I can do the work and working with a teacher that had faith in me and helping me turn around.

Tackling the reading test with confidence.

Working hard every day.

We are a team!

Reciting the Owl and the Pussycat.

Receiving the HT Award for the school prayer.

Going on our trip to Ryedale Museum.

Receiving the HT Award for presentation.

Being a finalist in Newcomen's Got Talent.

Everyone want us to have a bright future.

The size of our field.

Writing my own poem about the River Nile.

Having a kind and caring teacher and having my friends with me.

Having the bestest Head Teacher in the whole wide world ☺

Getting 100% nearly all the time and reading 200 times at home.

Learning to sew a Tudor rose.

Our Christmas Fair.

Everyone puts in so much effort to help us.

Breakfast Club is great.

Team effort!

Our after school clubs.

My proudest moment was showing my mum and dad my books.

The best thing about our school is our class assemblies and Leonardo.

Getting stage 3 in swimming.

The best thing is the Newcomen Family.

My proudest moment is getting 10/10 every week in my spellings every Friday

Our globe statue which I touched when I was in School Council and One World Our World.

Having an ice-cream with each other for our hard work.

I loved reading War Horse.

I love art. It is really relaxing and makes me feel calm.

Our family ethos.

We love our school mascot and our brand new statue of Leonardo.

I Love RE because I love putting myself in the shoes of others and learning to be more compassionate and empathetic.

I feel safe in school because the teachers look after you.

Newcomen Primary School helps me spread my wings.

My proudest achievement, which is becoming more confident, has had an impact on my social life.

The teachers put us first.

The best thing is that we have rewards for our hard work and we have talent.

Having Leonardo in our classroom after the spelling test.

We have a kind head teacher.

Getting 100% in my maths assessment.
Making smoothies in our topic lesson.
Making the iron man by using plastic.
My reading certificates.
We are lucky to have well-educated teachers who give us rewards for our hard work.
The best thing about our school is the school dinners.
Getting the Head Teacher Award. I liked it because I got talked about.
Coming 3rd in the egg and spoon race.
Our Leonardo statue.
Singing amazingly during Family Day.
We have strict security and nice teachers who look after us.
Special events because every event at this school is a great time.
Being blessed with a magnificent head teacher.
Having confidence to believe in myself.
Seeing my art on display.
Everything.

Our teachers.
Getting 15/15 every week in spellings
Swimming lessons and our trips.
Spending time with our teachers.
On Family Day we have fun and laughter.
The teachers give up their time for us.
I'm proud of making huge improvements in my work and showing my dad my work.
The challenging work.
I've got better at sketching and standing up to say my lines in assembly.
All of the teachers have been kind to me.
The best thing is that we have the right to work our hardest.

I love art and writing. I want to be an author or a teacher.
Newcomen helps me believe in my dreams, achieve my dreams and succeed in life.
My favourite memories are of War Horse and Bikeability.
Newcomen Primary School helps me be myself.
My proudest achievement is improving my behaviour.
Newcomen Primary School – the school where I began.
Inspire2Learn and eating ice-cream in class with my friends.
Singing in the choir on Family Day and getting a handwriting pen.
I am proud of reciting Flanders Fields.'

What would make our school even better?

'A new fountain at the front of school.
You can't make the school better because it is at its prime.
I like it just the way it is.
We can't.
Everything is perfect.
Nothing. Our school is phenomenally outstanding.
By getting a little animal hut for the foxes so they don't get cold.
It's impossible. It's already great.
I think it is the best school ever.
Nothing.
To work with an artist.
Upstairs so more children can join this educational school.
An art gallery for people to see other pupil's art.
Extend Caterpillar Corner and having a wildlife area.
A garden where we can plant plants for school.
A quiet area at playtime where we can read and have a private chat.
We could grow our own fruit and vegetables.
It is amazing as it is!
A running club.
It's already perfect.

I don't think you can.
Newcomen is perfect.
A shaded area on the field for KS1.
By putting food outside for the animals when teachers leave the school and water.
Running Club for Y5 and Y6 on Monday.
Gymnastics Club.
Having Science Club again.
Could we please have wheelchair basketball club again?
Y3/4 running club.
No more palm oil products.
We can't.
Putting up another hero on the wall in Learning Area 4.
Use the flags in learning Area 2 more.
To have more food tasting sessions during One World Our World. We should have the entire school go into the hall and do an around the world buffet.
A litter picking club for Y3/4.
Music lessons after school.
Dance Club and Cookery Club for Y5/Y6.
Nothing because our school is the most phenomenal school ever.
Our own PE kit for tournaments.
I think we should have a school PE kit that represents our school.
Have our school flag in Learning Area 4.'

Summary of Parent/Carer View

What you think we do really well. (Exact wording of parents and carers)

The teachers are very very approachable and get the balance of being approachable but firm perfectly right ☺

Children love school when they go to your school. 10 stars!

The school's work ethic is second to none. The pupils are always taught life skills, manners and values as well as educational subjects which is key in primary school.

The school relationship between families and themselves is amazing and I am proud my child attends Newcomen.

You teach the children the value of working hard and good things will happen.

Everything.

School performances are amazing.

My child is happy and content. He comes home full of new knowledge and is eager to share it with us. Children are kind and considerate.

My child really enjoyed the after-school litter picking club.

You always listen and take on board the views of parents.

The events you hold, which involve families and carers, are invaluable and provide so many opportunities to work together to improve outcomes for children.

Well done for all the hard work all teachers and staff put into this school for the children and their families.

My children are achieving really well at Newcomen. Mrs Lamb is fab – nothing is ever a problem for her. She seems to remember all of the children in the school and they like to go and see her in First Aid.

Thank you so much for supporting my child and making her the person she is today.

The school brings families together and keeps everyone connected.

Excellent inclusive school for children and their families.

Newcomen is a great school.

I have the comfort of knowing my child is safe at school.

I like the values that the school promotes. I like that bad behaviour is not tolerated.

Family Day is just the best day of the year.

EYFS Tea Dance is a lovely afternoon.

Amazing teachers and fantastic leadership.

You support and empower children. Family Days instil pride and it is lovely to see all the children feeling that pride.

I am super proud that my children belong to the Newcomen Family.

You provide a safe and nurturing environment for the children.

Excellent support and guidance teaching the children to be responsible, resilient and respectful of others.

Children are always so well behaved. Excellent school.

Exceptional school all round with an excellent learning environment and high expectations.

You build important relationships with families.

The staff are amazing – always willing to go the extra mile to support.
Extending open afternoon so working parents can attend worked well for my family.
You ensure my child has the best experience and education possible.
I like how you involve the children in important decisions like Family Day colours and Leonardo.

The school makes all pupils feel like part of a big family and it's nice to feel that the adults genuinely care for every pupil.

You create a sense of community for the children and their family.

Work hard and play hard.

The school is fantastic at keeping families involved in events.

Staff have been fantastic at teaching my child – he is excelling in all areas.

You guide children to achieve their best potential. Miss Pusztai and the teachers drive a clear focus and that is all for the children to achieve their very best. I love how well families are included.

My child is happy at school and he is proud of his class and of his school.

ParentMail is superb (and paperless)!

As a parent, I am proud to say both my children attend this school. I have attended lots of events here which are of the highest standard. We enjoy Christmas Crafts and Bingo.

Keep up the excellent work – I love Newcomen Primary School.

I am so exceptionally happy I moved my child to Newcomen. I have no doubt my child will thrive here. Thank you.

The school is fantastic for involving parents and creating memories for us all.

My child says he loves school and hates the school holidays.

My child has blossomed and continues to learn and grow each day. Thank you.

You teach the children key values about life i.e. kindness and helping others.

Regular parents' evenings and open afternoons ensure we are always informed of progress.

Great teachers. Great discipline. Brilliant teaching.

Although the emphasis is very much on academic development, it is clear that children's well-being, happiness and social development are considered in all aspects of school life. Staff are clearly dedicated.

You always keep parents up to date on what is happening in school.

Newcomen has always exceeded my expectations in all areas. The commitment to ensuring all children are thriving and happy is clear to see.

Behaviour is dealt with really well in school.

You teach above expectations and support emotional, physical and mental needs.

Teaching discipline well in ways that children understand.

Teachers always find the time to treat children all individually and find each of their strengths. They are so friendly and approachable. Nothing is too much trouble.

Nursery staff have given my child the best possible start to her education. Knowing my child goes to school happy is all I can ask for. Thank you.

Being made to feel part of the Newcomen family.

The school uses a very holistic approach.

You make our school a close family. You show the children that teachers and staff care.

Our Leonardo sculpture is very impressive!
School really encourages children to respect themselves and others.
I love coming to see my child's work on open afternoons.
After school clubs are enjoyed massively by my daughter – thank you.
I think the school brings everyone together and keeps everyone connected.
I feel the child is listened to and is happy at school. Every teacher she has had has inspired her and given her the confidence to grow. She constantly says how happy she is at school. Keep up the fantastic work. A very happy parent.
Both my children have had brilliant teachers each year in school. The teachers and staff really do care about the children and don't just treat them as a number.
An amazing primary school with a high focus on children's achievement but also remembering good family traditions, values and manners.

Helping the children to be passionate about whatever they do e.g. sports clubs, trips and even homework!
Amazing Family Day. Every year seems to get better and better!
Excellent communication again – especially ParentMail.
My child's start at Newcomen has been amazing. Communication has been outstanding. We like that school (teachers, assistants, head teacher and all staff) care about the pupils.
Thank you ☺
Supporting children to work at their highest standards.
Laminated sheets with dates for the year are great.
Staff are amazing and encourage children to try new things and build up their confidence. The help and support we have received have been amazing.
I love how the school keeps parents involved and updated. The staff make the school what it is. They are all friendly and always look happy.

It feels like what the children think is really important. From the minute you walk into school, you feel that the atmosphere is warm and welcoming and it has a lovely family feel to it.
I cannot thank the school enough for giving my child the extra help he needs.
Topics are always based on very interesting things that the children get so passionate about learning and researching it.
Communication is always great.
Phenomenal school with phenomenal teachers. My child comes home each day bursting with knowledge and inspired to learn more. We couldn't ask for anything more. Thank you for all you do.
I love open afternoons and seeing my child's work.
Being committed to the children.
Homework – it is not too easy and helps push children further.
A good strong structure in all departments.
Making sure standards, traditions and values are maintained.
Setting homework as DT projects.
The security at the school is second to none. You make my daughter happy and want to come to school. Thank you.
My child's needs are always considered.

The nature of school life is wonderful. Every member of staff cares for the children and it is very clear to see. Children are very well-behaved and manners are impeccable which of course continues at home.

We love the standards of the school and how important Believe Achieve Succeed is!

The team are just outstanding ensuring every child's needs are met.

The family ethos. Love the welcoming entrance. Great at keeping parents in the loop.

Providing an environment where children feel safe, valued and cared for and can therefore make great progress academically and emotionally.

Fantastic teaching – our son has come on in leaps and bounds since starting. We couldn't praise the school more!

Newcomen really is an amazing school and I'm so glad that my son is part of it.

Lovely to see keen enthusiastic staff who make the children feel comfortable and safe to be themselves.

Staff always have the children's best interests at heart.

We absolutely loved the EYFS Tea Dance. My child's great gran was in tears of happiness watching the children dance.

The whole child is important at Newcomen.

The Wednesday Weekly Walks in EY enable the children to learn aspects of real life.

This is really important.

Other schools don't provide half of what you do. I know. A big thank you from me and my family – we are proud to be part of your school.

Sponsored Spell is really well organised. All the children enjoy taking part helping raise money for good causes and learning the importance of it all.

The time and effort that is put into Family Day is incredible.

Family days and school fairs are our all-time favourites. I would like to thank you for the consideration you have shown myself on behalf of my children.

Commitment to the children.

Excellent interaction between students, parents and staff.

The teachers have always been fantastic and make the children feel special.

Family day was BRILLIANT (as usual!)

Listening to parents' and children's suggestions and acting on them.

The school has fantastic leadership and the staff team is amazing.

Such a wonderful environment for learning – supportive and caring.

You make pupils and family feel like one big family. The way you involve parents is amazing. Events like Family Day, school plays, sports days – you go above and beyond and seeing my children beam with pride is the BEST feeling! The best decision I ever made was choosing this school – my children practically run to school on a morning – so THANK YOU!

The school put the children first. You put amazing effort into everything you do.

Excellent communication.

Newcomen is a very special school that goes out of the way to make you feel part of a community and has an open door policy allowing enquiries to be dealt with that day.

We love that the HT and all staff care about our children – thank you.

The school is great. The teachers, children and parents work together – could not ask for a better school.

Really efficient communication from the school. Children always seem happy.

You create an environment that balances discipline with support and caring which allows the children to thrive and learn.

You treat each child as an individual and involve parents and carers at every opportunity.

The teaching and support staff are wonderful human beings ☺.

Everything is just perfect and the teachers are just amazing.

You provide an excellent breakfast facility at a great price.

Excellent weekly ParentMail to keep us updated.

The school gets excellent SATs results and it is not hard to see why as the staff really do allow children to exceed. They offer excellent teaching methods and teach at an extremely high standard.

Exceptional school overall.

You give parents lots of notice of activities – laminated calendar and ParentMail.

Excellent learning environment and highest expectations.

Family Day is absolutely fantastic and so unique. It is the highlight of the year. My daughter is so happy at Newcomen.

Family Day confirms how all the children and staff support and encourage each other.

Inspiring the children to work their hardest and supporting children of all different abilities. My child's confidence has grown ten-fold and he genuinely loves coming to school and learning.

Twitter is great.

Everything. Encouraging children to achieve their best. My child loves the family feel of school.

I honestly can't thank my child's teacher enough for what she has done for my son. He has come on so much.

You encourage the children to reach their full potential.

The staff are genuinely happy and always put 100% effort into everything they do. They are full of enthusiasm. They are by far the best thing about the school and the reason the children do so well.

I like the variety of after school clubs held throughout the year.

Understanding each child's individual needs and traits. You take an interest in home life.

Outstanding Family Day – I have very special memories of family days to look back on.

ParentMail has really helped with communication.

How you get the children working together and helping them be passionate about whatever they do.

So proud my son is a pupil at Newcomen.

As a parent of this school, which both my children attend, I couldn't be happier with the way you care for my children shaping their futures.

I really admire you for promoting 'British Values' - Tolerance, Democracy, Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty and Rule of Law.

I have two happy children who love school and that's what matters☺!

Everything – I am so proud my daughter is part of the Newcomen family.

I love the inclusion of all the children and their families at Newcomen.
Everything – I wouldn't change a thing.'

Further Suggestions:

'A sun canopy for Family Day.

Meditation with calming music at the end of the day.

Newcomen Primary School has such a lovely feel to it. Keep it up ☺

Please keep Christmas Crafts evening ☺

Keep up the good work.

Our children love after school clubs so more would be great.

Could you make Family Day more plastic free asking external sellers to provide alternatives?

Uniform – there must be a way we can organise for the uniform to get recycled within our Newcomen community.

A dog mess bin outside school might help the dog fouling outside the fence.

Dress up on World Book Day.

Maybe a KS2 area outside where children can sit and read.

Literally can't think of anything – it's a fantastic school.

Keep doing what you are doing.

We are just looking forward to our child continuing her journey in Newcomen. Can't wait to see what she will achieve within such an amazing environment.

Maybe acknowledge Nursery out of school achievement?

Somewhere to store bikes/scooters for Nursery that is accessible for morning pick-up (if possible?)

We are delighted that our child attends this school. It is a really special place. Thank you for your support.

Let the younger children stay out for the full Family Day.

Just keep being amazing!

Stricter rules around shoes worn as school uniform.

Medals for sports day instead of stickers for the younger ones as they lose them.

A canopy for children to sit under when it is hot on Family Day.

More frequent traffic supervision at morning and home time. Cars can be scary at close contact for children.

Parking – we are constantly fighting to see around stupidly parked cars to cross the road.

Meditation/relaxation techniques to allow children to unwind.

Less model making/project based homework.

Continue being phenomenal.

Music lessons for children after school.

Nothing. Really grateful.

Parents could contribute £1 or £2 for medals on Sports Day as children become upset when the stickers fall off.

To make half-term homework optional as children work so hard during school time.

Splitting KS2 Sports Day is an idea as all 4 year groups together was hectic. Some children were just sitting for long periods.

Book Club for the older children.

A vegetable patch for the children to maintain and a wild flower garden to attract butterflies and bees.

Do a recording of Family Day for parents to buy.

Continue what you are doing.

Further development of PE provision with specific emphasis around healthy lifestyle sleep.

A place to leave Nursery bikes and scooters as the bike shed is locked during Nursery morning pick-up time.

I think projects linked to our region are great and should be continued.

Continue what you are doing.

I believe this is a fantastic school for what it believes in.

You are all fabulous. Thank you x'

Thank you again for your comments and your ideas; we really appreciate the time taken to complete our questionnaire. As has been evidenced over the last nine 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 academic year. I will, as always, keep you informed of all actions undertaken.

I cannot stress how appreciated your positive and thoughtful words really are to us and I thank you for your ongoing support and acknowledgement of all that we do here at Newcomen Primary School.

Warmest wishes

Miss Pusztai, Staff and Governors of Newcomen Primary School