



## South Cave CE (VC) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs J. Newby

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Parents,

### Parent Questionnaire – summary of responses

You will recall that in December parents were asked to complete a questionnaire to help us continue to move forward to improve the quality of provision for your child in our school. I have now completed analysis of them and a table is attached giving the percentage of responses for each question. I have also summarised, in notes, the comments received for each question. There were many positive comments linked to each question and the staff are very grateful that you acknowledge their hard work and commitment to the school and to your children. It was pleasing to see that 100% of parents completing the questionnaire felt their children are happy, well looked after and safe in our school, with 44% strongly agreeing and 56% agreeing. I have also noted the areas you were less pleased about/made suggestions to improve and will bear these in mind as we move through the year.

There were only 2 areas where more than 10% disagreed with the statements (this is an improvement on the previous year where there were 4 areas). These areas are identified below:

- ***Teachers set homework which is appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning and/or prepares pupils well for work to come.*** (11% -reduced from 16% in 2017)

Although perceptions on this area have improved since last year, it is still clearly an issue for some parents, with some believing children get too much homework and others believing it is not enough. Some believing the work is too hard and others too easy. We have introduced more flexibility of choice of homework completed in KS1 and lower KS2, with longer term projects also being introduced as optional extra homework. Although regular English and maths homework has continued for upper KS2, to help prepare the children for expectations as they move towards KS3, it is very difficult to get this right for everyone, but this is one that we will look further into in the coming months.

- ***My child reads widely and often, with fluency and comprehension appropriate to their age.*** (19% - increased from 15% in 2017).

As parents are aware, we have increased the focus on reading over the last year, with the introduction of our 'must reads' for each year group; greater links with the library service; activities to help enthuse children's reading (such as the KS1 Christmas story night); and closer links between reading and writing. However, this is clearly an area that parents continue to have concerns in, being able to engage their children in reading at home, but also some disappointment at the quality of home readers. We have made quite an investment in the guided reading books that children read in school, and reorganised all books so that the libraries in each building contain books that are age appropriate to challenge children further. We have to agree that this may not be the case for some of the books that children can take home and many are past their best and we intend to prioritise this area over the coming months, funding permitting! We also have a planned focus on reading during World Book Day and are looking forward to workshops for all year groups led by a famous children's author.

We will continue to look at ways we can improve the above areas and I will keep you up to date with this in my newsletters. If you have any useful suggestions on how we can improve these areas please complete the attached form by next Friday (18<sup>th</sup> January), I will also be adding these areas to the agenda for the parent forum to discuss during future meetings this year; I would be very pleased to hear your views. I am determined to continue to raise the standards of this school, offering excellent provision and a school to be proud of in the area, so that all of our parents can take their children on to the next stage of their education having achieved well and enjoyed their time here.

Thank you for your support,

J.Newby

**I would like to make the following suggestions in relation to the following statements:**

Teachers set homework which is appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning and/or prepares pupils well for work to come

My child reads widely and often, with fluency and comprehension appropriate to their age

It would be helpful if you could put your name on this sheet as I may find it useful to discuss your ideas further with you. However, if you would rather remain anonymous that is fine also. Thank you for your time.

J. Newby

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_ children in Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Questionnaire

November 2018

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1	My child is happy at this school Additional comments if required Sometimes struggles to understand so needs extra support.	44%	56%			
2	My child is well looked after at this school Additional comments if required	44%	56%			
3	My child feels safe at this school Additional comments if required	44%	56%			
4	This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved Additional comments if required Impressed by behaviour in Christmas play. Problems dealt with quickly by staff. Happy with how behaviour is managed in my child's class, but heard not dealt with swiftly enough higher up the school. Poorly behaved children should not remain in class if disruptive.	30%	63%	3%		3%
5	This school deals effectively with bullying, working with parents and pupils to deal with issues quickly Additional comments if required Not had any experience, so don't know. No experience. Spoke to teacher about a concern and quickly dealt with. No bullying issues. More info on this required to make judgement. No incidents to date. Haven't had an issue. No experience. Never had any issues	25%	28%	3%		44%
6	My child is developing secure knowledge, understanding and skills and is therefore making good progress. Additional comments if required My child is working above average and is not supported to aim higher. Dyslexia is slowing pace. Sometimes feel my child feels left behind with the pace.	33%	58%	6%	3%	
7	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress, learning and other school activities Additional comments if required Newsletter good. No idea what my child is aiming for, therefore difficult to support. Enjoying photos and comments on bloomz. More regular teacher discussions would be welcomed. Additional updates would be helpful if child not meeting the standards. Like bloomz and tapestry. Only Parents evening and reports.	31%	59%	9%		

8	<p>Teachers set homework which is appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning and/or prepares pupils well for work to come.</p> <p>Additional comments if required</p> <p>Often too easy and uninspiring. Y5 great homework – challenging. Sporadic: sometimes too much; sometimes not enough. Content ok but volume too much. Sometimes seems child has not done this work before.</p>	23%	66%	11%		
9	<p>My child reads widely and often, with fluency and comprehension appropriate to their age</p> <p>Additional comments if required</p> <p>Home readers old and outdated. Old reading books, hope for more up to date ones soon. My child needs more support. Y2 to Y3 reading lists have massive jump in difficulty. Hard to get her interested – must read uninspiring Struggle to get them to read Tries hard but could do with additional support with reading. Level of books seem babyish if child not reading at age standards – have to have books aimed at younger pupils.</p>	31%	50%	19%		
10	<p>My child is taught well at this school</p> <p>Additional comments if required</p> <p>School does not ensure every child achieves highly, focused on achieving expected progress. My child comes home telling me maths problems and I am pleased she is challenged. He really likes his teacher. Class sizes very big.</p>	31%	63%	3%		3%
11	<p>The school engages well with parents encouraging them to play an active role in school life.</p> <p>Additional comments if required</p>	24%	73%	3%		
12	<p>The school responds to concerns I raise with them</p> <p>Additional comments if required</p> <p>Concerns raised about supporting more able have not been addressed. Haven't had an issue. One minor concern which was handled well. No concerns but confident they would be dealt with.</p>	25%	63%	3%		10%
13	<p>The school is well led and managed</p> <p>Additional comments if required</p> <p>Expect HT to inspire teachers to strive for excellence but not seen this.. Impressed how HT is engaging with parents and listening to ideas/suggestions. Like the visibility of Headteacher around school and external events.</p>	25%	66%		3%	6%
14	<p>The governing body effectively supports and challenges the school</p> <p>Additional comments if required</p> <p>May be doing this but not communicated to parents. Unable to comment.</p>	13%	41%	3%	3%	41%

	<p>Don't know anything about them. ? Unaware what they have done. Little communicated about their role. Don't have enough info to be able to comment.</p>					
<b>Early Years Foundation Stage (parents of children in Y1 and currently in EYFS only)</b>						
	<p>Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress in their first year. Parents are encouraged to support their children's learning and development at home Additional comments if required</p> <p>This is ok just through parents evening. Quite a lot of homework for first term in school. I miss Tapestry, although Bloomz is good. More info given in EYFS but still good in Y1.</p>	47%	53%			
	<p>All adults in EYFS have high expectations of children based on accurate assessment of children's skills, knowledge and understanding when they join the school providing learning opportunities to challenge, motivate and interest the children. Additional comments if required</p> <p>Phonics teaching has been excellent.</p>	47%	53%			
	<p>My child has opportunities to learn good behaviour and an awareness of safety Additional comments if required</p>	69%	31%			

Is there anything in school that you are particularly pleased with or proud of?

- Impressed with sports offer, loads of clubs and attending more cluster events
- Surprised by child's knowledge and intelligence – something's clearly working
- Lovely community centred school with parents motivated to help child succeed
- Nice community feel
- Embracing change
- Reward for well behaved/good work through WOW and SHINE
- KS1 play
- Impressed with EYFS – my child loves coming to school and feels happy and safe
- Appropriately challenged and supported
- Learning is fun, hands on and meaningful
- Staff extremely approachable and welcoming
- Issues dealt with immediately and feedback given
- All staff try very hard
- Child settled well at school and has positive attitude to learning, enjoys coming
- Strong sense of community
- Teachers care for the children and support their developments
- Communication between school and parents is very good
- Pleased with the way our son's behaviour was dealt with by teacher and TA
- Caring nature of staff – all dedicated to their roles
- Improved communication including parent forum
- PTA and school involvement with events
- Extra curriculum opportunities: sports clubs; science week; theatre; school play; Christingle service etc
- Teachers have been brilliant
- Good atmosphere at school
- Opportunities for parents to come and see where child learns is wonderful
- Very varied education – always makes child ask further questions
- Lovely school
- So pleased – EYFS teachers and TAs settled children from lovely welcoming taster sessions to now
- Such a happy, welcoming caring approach

- Excellent school with excellent standards, great ideas and strong sense of community
- Like the visibility of Headteacher around school and external events
- Approachable and friendly staff are key and the 'over and above' contributed by them shines through
- Improved after school sports facilities
- Like the way doing spellings in Y5 – emphasis on rules not a weekly test
- Good that reading still important in Y5, times table practice is a good idea too
- As a parent very impressed at the commitment of some staff showing their faces at out of school events eg Christingle and Cave Castle lights – very busy people but it shows how much the school is prepared to go the extra mile to support its children and parents.
- The range of extra-curricular activities on offer are varied and wide reaching across all year groups

Is there anything in the school that you are particularly concerned about?

- Sport seems an afterthought with preparation for competitions done last minute and teachers who don't always look like they want to be there
- Handwriting scheme fully cursive from EYFS means lack of understanding of basic letter formation
- Age and quality of reading books
- Home readers need to be better
- Reading books need updating, some dated, some just rubbish and disappointing – perhaps new books is something PTA could fund?
- Volume of homework – would prefer breakfast club for children to do this together
- Class sizes very big in Y6 – must be difficult for teachers
- more support for maths/additional sessions or TA support for those who start to slip back when move to KS2
- Long term sick of teacher covered with supply
- Too much focus on communicating negative aspects of school life and lack of celebration of children achieving in school and external activities and more able pupils lack challenge
- Children not provided with sufficient additional support
- Children not allowed to get a drink
- Children watch a film too often
- Children can't sit with friends at lunchtime/ packed lunch and dinner children have to sit separate
- Children weren't allowed to run at lunchtime for a while (although not a problem now)
- (suggestion – noticeboard near library entrance updated with events/achievements)

#### Representation of parents

<b>Foundation</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>15%</b>