



Washingwell Primary School

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Newsletter Number: 20

Date: Thursday 8 February 2018

Attendance

| | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|---|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Weekly Attendance % | 92.9% | 97.5% | 98% | 100% | 97.7% | 97.7% | 97.7% |
| Number of late marks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of children late marks equate to | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Well done to Year 3 who have the best attendance this week with 100%!

News

Half Term

A reminder that we have an INSET day tomorrow so school closes to pupils today. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 19 February 2018.

Basketball Success

Our school basketball teams had a successful tournament at Whickham School on Wednesday afternoon this week. Both team A and team B qualified from their group, the A team losing one and the B team remaining unbeaten. In the semi finals, the A team powered through to the final, just finally narrowly losing to Front Street. Well done to both teams. Finishing overall second and fourth out of 15 teams was a fantastic result for Washingwell.



In It to Win It

78 children were entered in to our In It to Win It prize draw today for 100% and zero late marks recorded throughout the whole of the first half of Spring 2018 (8 January – 8 February 2018) – well done to you all! Congratulations to Pip (Year 1), Aaliyah (Year 2), Rhys (Year 3) and Jack (Year 5) whose names were picked out of the hat in assembly – they will attend a special celebratory outing with Mrs Hall next half term.

Parent Survey

Once again, thank you to those parents that responded to our recent parent survey. We received a 21.2% response rate. The results of this survey are attached for your information.

Memos and Reminders

World Book Day

This year, World Book Day will be taking place on Thursday 1 March 2018 so you may like to start planning your child's costume over half term! It is always a brilliant day in school with children celebrating their love of reading. This year our focus is going to be 'Myths and Legends'. Children are therefore welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite mythical creature or legend on Thursday 1 March 2018. Who will your child be? King Arthur.....a Dragon.....Robin Hood....Maid Marion!

Forthcoming Events and Key Dates

Thursday 8 February 2018

3.20pm – School closes for Spring half term
3.30 – 5.30pm – Valentines Disco at Whizz Kids

Friday 9 February 2018

INSET Day – School closed to Pupils

Monday 19 February 2018

8.55am – School re-opens

Wednesday 21 February 2018

9.15am – Year 1 Showcase Event (Year 1 Parents invited to attend)

Wednesday 28 February 2018

3.30 – 5.00pm – Year 6 SATS Session – CANCELLED due to Mrs McCue not being in school on this afternoon.

Thursday 1 March 2018

World Book Day – Myths and Legends

Friday 2 March 2018

Morning – Reception and Year 1 Visits to Waterstones, Metro Centre (separate letter already issued)

Monday 5 March 2018

Morning – Year 2 Visit to Waterstones, Metro Centre (separate letter already issued).
3.30 – 5.30pm – Parent Consultation Appointments (separate letter already issued). **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Tuesday 6 March 2018

3.30 – 5.30pm – Parent Consultation Appointments (separate letter already issued). **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Wednesday 7 March 2018

9.15am – Year 4 Showcase Event (Year 4 parents invited to attend).
Year 5 Visit to Durham Botanical Gardens (separate letter already issued).

Thursday 8 March 2018

Year 6 Visit to Durham Botanical Gardens (separate letter already issued)

Friday 9 March 2018

Year 2 Visit to York Chocolate (separate letter already issued)

Tuesday 13 March 2018

9.15am – Year 5 Showcase Event (Year 5 parents invited to attend).
Year 1 Visit to Kirkley Hall (separate letter yet to be issued)

Wednesday 14 March 2018

9.15am – Year 6 Showcase Event (Year 6 parents invited to attend).
3.30 – 5.00pm – Year 6 SATS Session

Thursday 15 March 2018

Afternoon – Year 4 Quicksticks Hockey Tournament at Whickham School (please note later collection time of 3.45pm)

Monday 19 March 2018

Afternoon – Year 4 to Sage, Gateshead for Spring Sing Event (separate letter yet to be issued)

Tuesday 20 March 2018

9.15am – Year 3 Showcase Event (Year 3 Parents invited to attend)

6.30 – 8.30pm – Dance Festival at Sage Gateshead (separate letter regarding sale of tickets already issued).

Wednesday 21 March 2018

9.15am – Year 2 Showcase Event (Year 2 Parents invited to attend).

Year 3 and 4 Visit to Discovery Museum and Quayside (separate letter yet to be issued).

Friday 23 March 2018

2.30pm – Spring Assembly (Parents/Guardians invited to attend).

Week commencing Monday 26 March 2018 – No clubs this week.

Wednesday 28 March 2018

Afternoon – Reception Multi Sport Festival at Gateshead Leisure Centre (separate letter yet to be issued)

3.30 – 5.00pm – Year 6 SATS Session

Thursday 29 March 2018

3.20pm – School closes for Easter break.

Monday 16 April 2018

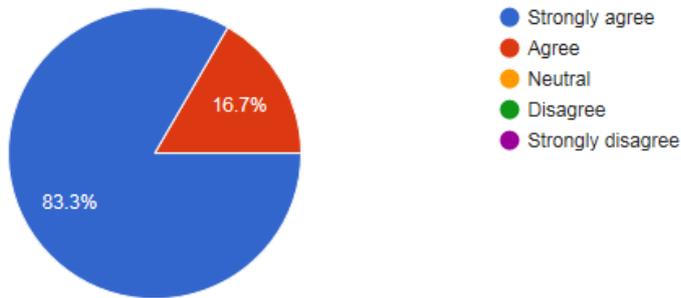
8.55am – School re-opens for Summer term.

*A reminder that we are a Safeguarding School and we have a duty to pass on any concerns to
Children's Services*

Results of Parent Survey – February 2018

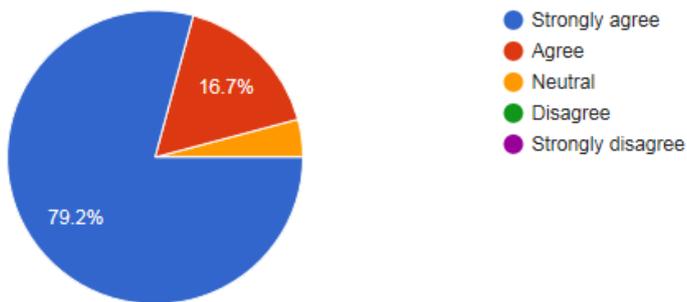
I feel welcome when I come in to this school.

24 responses



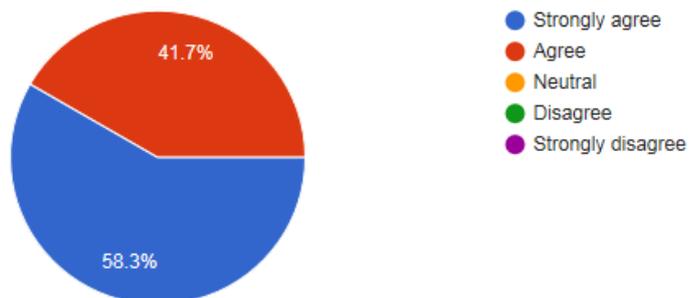
My child is happy and enjoys school.

24 responses



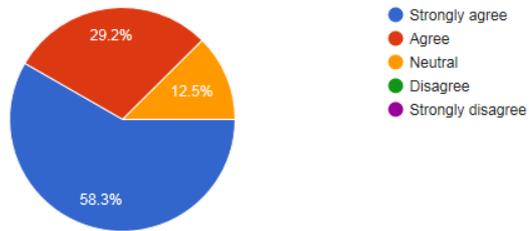
The school encourages parents to play an active part in school life.

24 responses



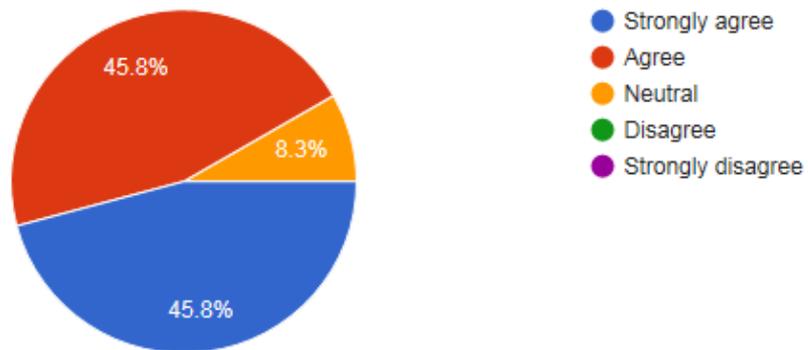
I would find it easy to approach the school with a query or concern and I feel that the school would respond appropriately.

24 responses



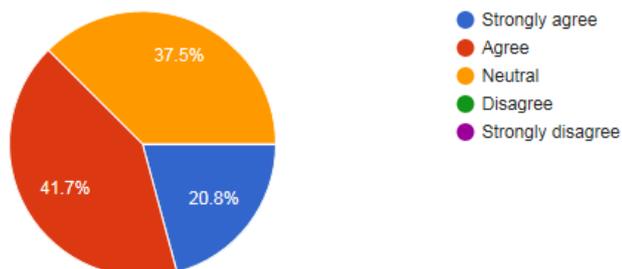
I know how to help my child with their homework.

24 responses



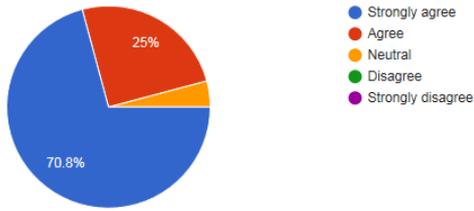
The Family Support Worker has been a welcome addition to Washingwell Community Primary School

24 responses



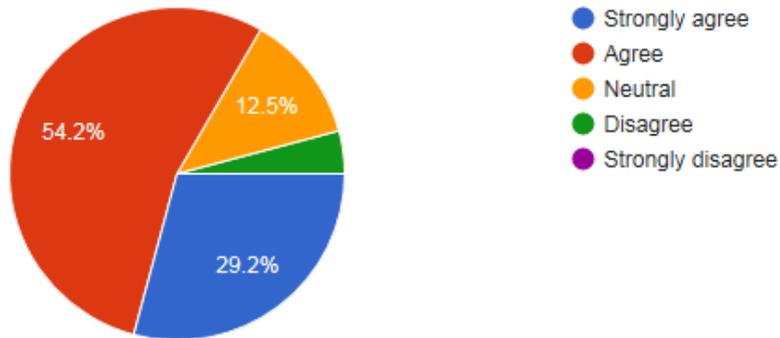
Washingwell Whizz Kids (Out of School Club) is a popular addition to the provision at Washingwell Community Primary School.

24 responses



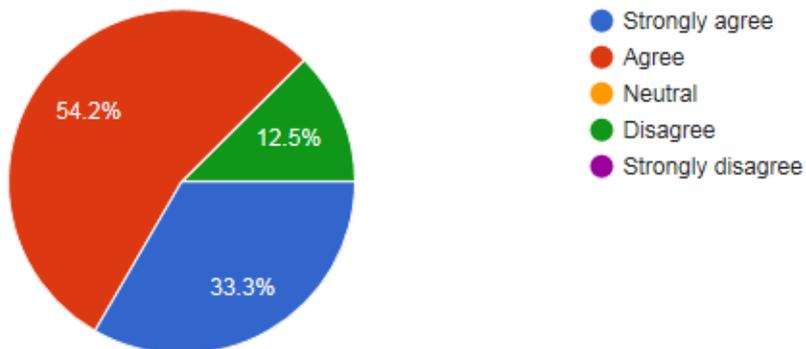
School Meal provision has improved since changing suppliers in September 2017.

24 responses



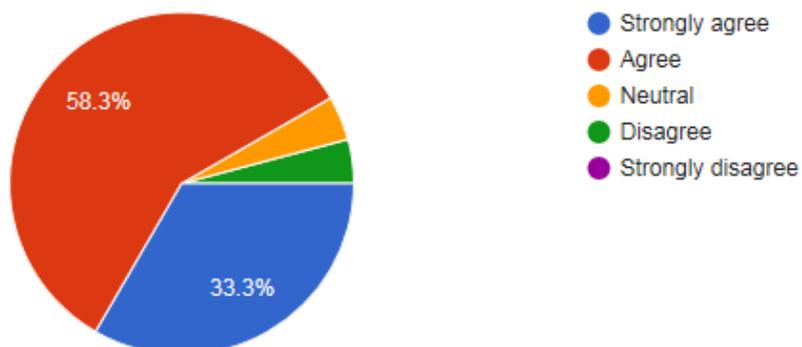
My child receives an adequate amount of homework.

24 responses



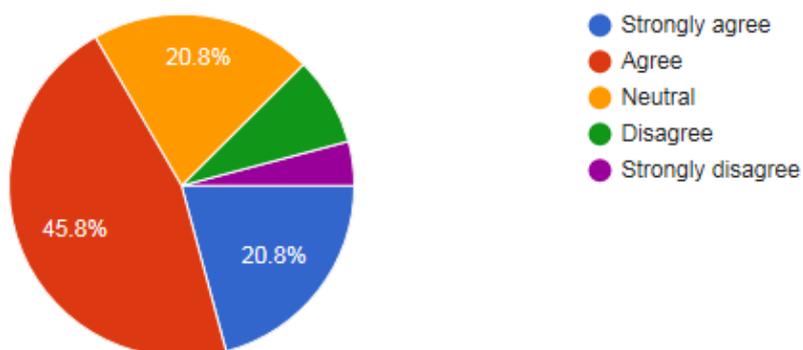
I am satisfied with the reading books/materials my child brings home.

24 responses



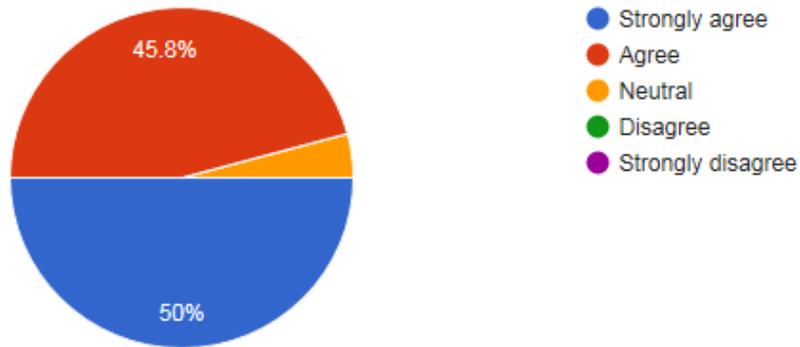
I get enough information about the curriculum my child is following.

24 responses



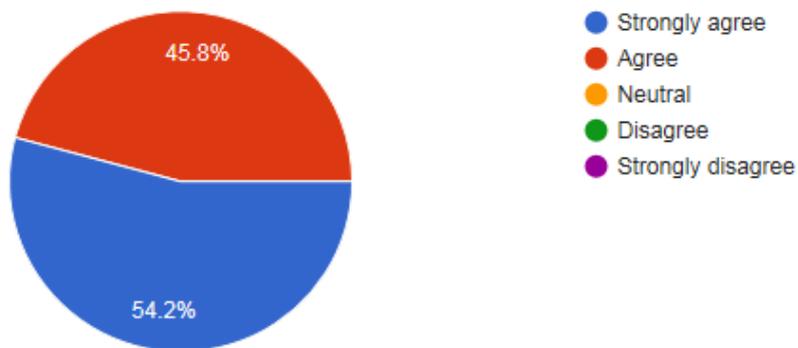
I am satisfied with the progress my child is making at this school.

24 responses



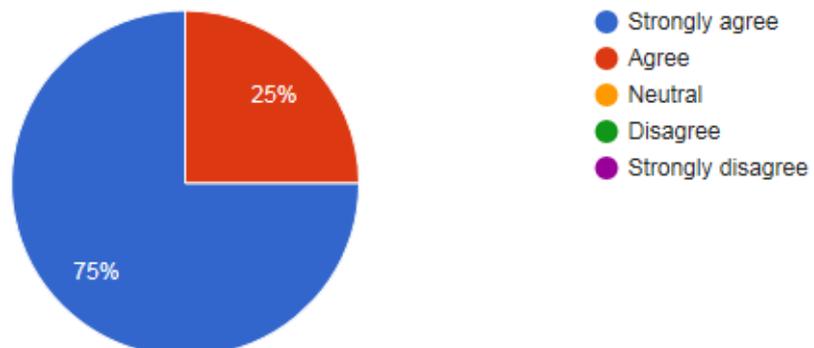
My child is taught well at Washingwell Community Primary School.

24 responses



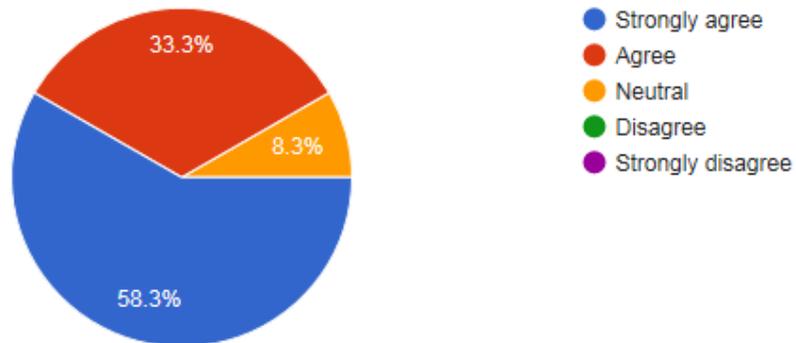
I feel my child is well looked after while they are at school.

24 responses



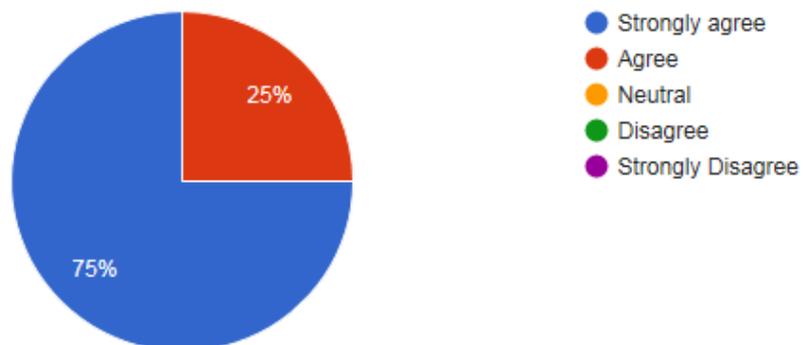
The school achieves high standards of good behaviour.

24 responses



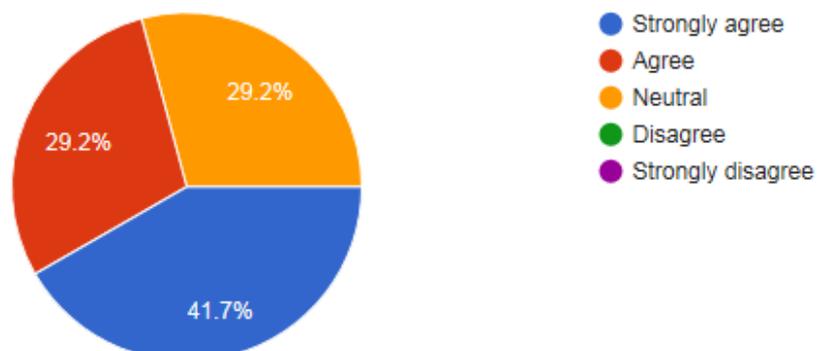
I feel my child is safe at school.

24 responses



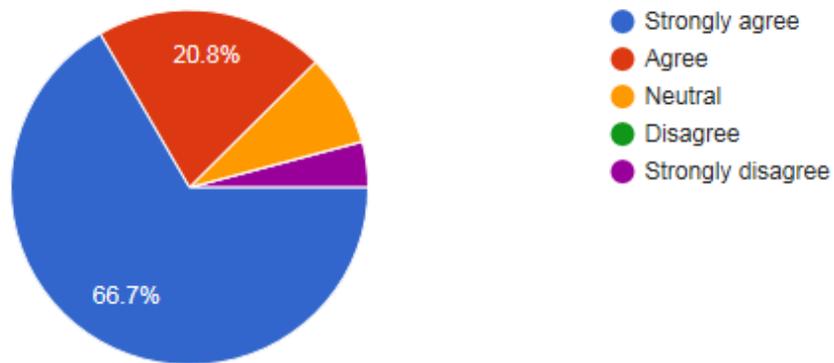
The school deals effectively with bullying.

24 responses



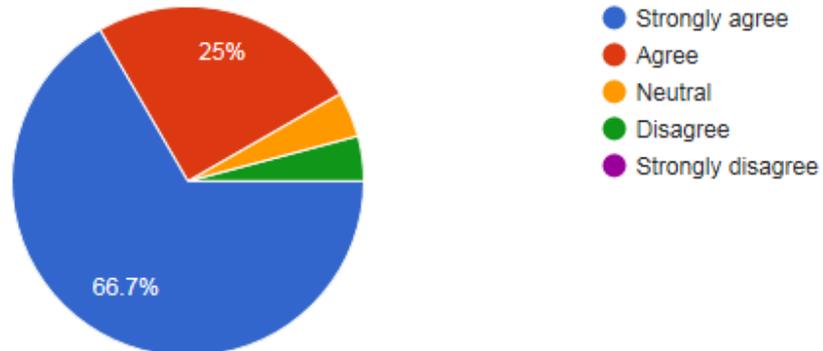
There are sufficient extra curricular activities available.

24 responses



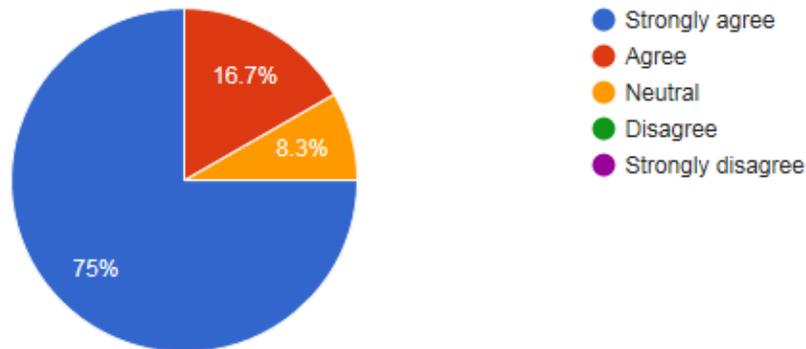
I feel the school is well led and managed.

24 responses



I would recommend Washingwell to other parents.

24 responses



What do we do well at Washingwell?

24 responses

Lots of opportunities for extra curricular activities and also very approachable. (2)

Each class isn't segregated, my child knows a lot of the other children in different yeargroups. The school feels like one community rather than a set of classes.

Teaching the children to be respectful to others. Also, regular showcases for the children to show their families what they have been learning.

Information sharing has hugely improved which is very good.

Encourage school community with the children

Keep parents informed

Calming Environment

The school always feels like a very happy place, and the children are always very polite and well behaved and appear to love school.

Engage with every family

Encourage a love of learning and resilience as well as offering outstanding enrichment opportunities.

Creating a sense of community and making parents /children feel they contribute to the success of the school.

Children are taught at their level, if a child struggles they get the help and support required

Washingwell is a fantastic school with an impressive outdoor environment for the children, my children love the woods and enjoy learning outdoors.

You encourage the children to have their own opinions and ideas while respecting other children's and adults

Nc

Involve parents and the community in events. You set the children milestones and challenges. Encourage our child to strive.

My children are very happy and school and are taught well by some great teachers. There is a very respectful attitude from pupils throughout the school and the behaviour is excellent

The children benefit from a broad range of opportunities at school. Visiting speakers, educational visits and themed weeks/ assemblies happen frequently throughout the year. Achievement in all areas is noticed and rewarded.

As an apprehensive parent taking my child to school for their first year of learning, it has been wonderful to be able to see day by day the twitter and Facebook updates showing us what our child has been learning, but also seeing how much fun the kids are having while learning too. It also allows us as parents to engage our child in conversation each afternoon with the day's learning. The school and staff are also excellent at keeping us informed with the weekly newsletter, it's nice and handy to refer to having it sent via email.

Excellent early year teachers. Who really help develop the children while caring for them at the same time.

Fantastic atmosphere that makes both children and adults feel very welcome. Washingwell school encourages the growth of pupils in both academically AND personally. Staff are very approachable and helpful. I find the level of communication from the school about what is happening to be comprehensive and easy to understand.

Provide an excellent breakfast and after school club. Plenty of after school activities for the children . Always try to make their education interesting and varied.

The teachers that we have had so far have been lovely. They know the children very well.

To continue our joined up working with Orian (school meal provider) it would be helpful if you could comment on the service.

A meeting has been held with the Operations Manager at Orian to discuss the results of this question in our survey. Orian were delighted with the positive comments regarding the improved service and wanted to thank you for those. They have outlined the focus areas that were noted in the survey responses for improvement, and their response is shown below:

| Comment / Area for Improvement | Response |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Portion Sizes | Portion sizes were addressed very early on in to our start at Washingwell and since then, we have added potato wedges to the sandwich choice meals, we actively promote the salad bar and daily homemade bread choices to the children to top up their portion. In addition, every child receives some form of vegetable on their plate regardless of whether they choose it or not. We have very strict nutritional guidelines to follow and portion sizes of carbohydrates, protein and other food groups are non-negotiable in line with these Government |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>guidelines. On the occasion that there is surplus food at the end of service, this is offered to the children. Due to the fact that items are homemade, there may be some variation in the size of pieces of cake for example as we cannot guarantee an identical shape, size or appearance which is the case for shop bought items.</p> |
| <p><i>'We would like a little more information about what certain meals are and what they consist of.'</i></p> | <p>We have taken this on board, and as from the new menu cycle (after Easter) we will include a brief description of the meals on the menu which will be uploaded on the school website and parents will be issued with a paper copy also. This type of description cannot be added to Lunchshop unfortunately as we are limited to the number of text characters per day. Alongside this, allergen content statements will be added to the website also.</p> |
| <p><i>'We would like a more varied dessert choice'</i></p> | <p>We have taken this on board and during a meeting with focus group children, they have suggested a number of new desserts which will be incorporated on to the new menu cycle for after Easter. In addition, we are also adding an extra daily dessert choice of cheese and crackers alongside the yogurt and fruit choices.</p> |
| <p><i>'Everything is cooked in sauces or cheese (tomato based a lot) and quality of food doesn't seem to be great now it's reheated in the kitchen rather than cooked in there.'</i></p> | <p>Under no circumstances is anything reheated in the school kitchen. 80% of our meals are homemade and the remaining 20% account for items such as bread buns for example that are bought in. We use fresh produce from local suppliers. Kitchen staff bake fresh bread every day for the children to enjoy and items such as pizza bases and sauces for example are all homemade. Due to the fact that everything is homemade, there may be some variation in the size of pieces of cake for example as we cannot guarantee an identical shape, size or appearance which is the case for shop bought items.</p> |

Do you have any other comments?

Once again I would like to thank you for the many positive comments made in relation to this question. Where an area for improvement was commented upon, we have outlined this below along with our response:

| Comment / Area for Improvement | Response |
|---|---|
| <p><i>'Lack of competition and actual heart pumping exercise is a big draw back in the school.'</i></p> | <p>Within the school curriculum, there are two hours of dedicated PE each week per class. On top of that, children are actively encouraged to take part in lunchtime and after school clubs, of which there are many involving physical exercise. This academic year so far we have offered Fit Kids, Football, Girls Football, Netball, Dodgeball, Karate, Dance, KS2 Athletics and KS1 Athletics. Last academic year we offered Cricket, Rugby, and Gymnastics. We pride ourselves on the range of clubs that we offer with a small staff team.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | We are part of the Gateshead School Sports Partnership and we regularly attend their tournaments and festivals which they host at many different local venues. |
| <i>'Examples of homework would be good'</i> | Homework is a consolidation of what the children have learnt in class. Different strategies apply for different year groups in line with the National Curriculum. If you have any concerns/queries about how to best support your child with their homework, please do not hesitate to contact the Class Teacher who would be more than happy to offer suggestions. |
| <i>'Why make parents wait outside in all weathers when waiting for performances?'</i> | Whilst we try not to make parents wait outside for any longer than is necessary, it is essential for us from a health, safety and safeguarding point of view to get the children settled and safe in to their classes for registration before we allow parents in to school. We follow strict health and safety guidelines, and large volumes of parents/visitors can cause congestion and potential fire safety risks. |
| <i>'Unsafe parking is really objectionable and needs eradicating ASAP'</i> | We have been working tirelessly (and continue to do so) with local residents, the Community Police and Gateshead Council with regards to this ongoing issue. We cannot stress enough the importance of safe parking around the vicinity of school to prevent an accident occurring. |
| <i>'More information for parents please about what is being covered in the curriculum in class during each term would be welcome'</i> | Our new curriculum was launched in September 2017, and full coverage of this is available on our school website. With this comment, in mind however, as from the Summer term 2018 we will send termly class overviews to parents. |

Thank you for your continued support.

Can I remind you that all responses to this survey are anonymous. If there is anything regarding your child's education that needs to be discussed on an individual basis please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hall; Head Teacher.

