

Parent – Carer Questionnaire

Thank you for all of your responses. They are valuable to the school as we try to improve. We appreciate the compliments and will endeavour to work on areas to improve. We have grouped responses so that we could respond to several similar responses.

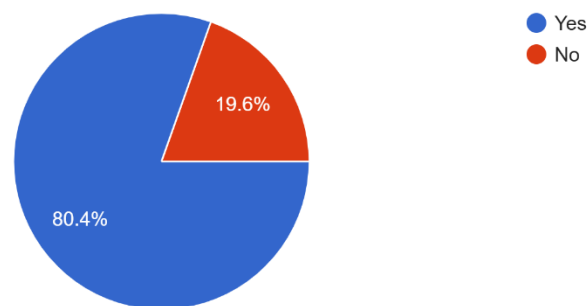
Best regards,

Mark Temple

Acting Head Teacher

Can you confirm that you have completed the 14 questions online via Parent View?

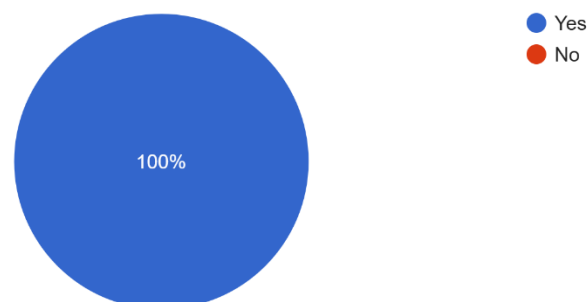
46 responses



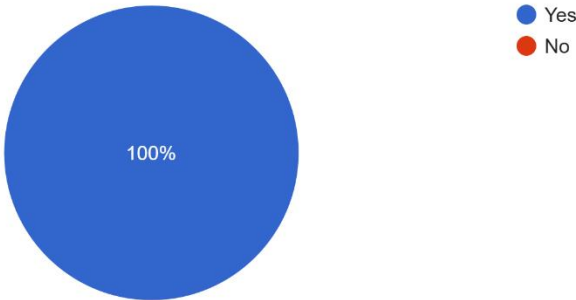
Section 1: Health and Safety

Does your child feel safe in school?

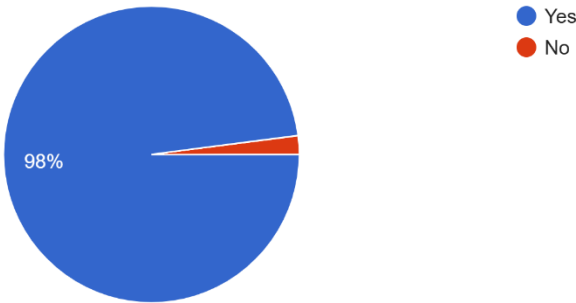
49 responses



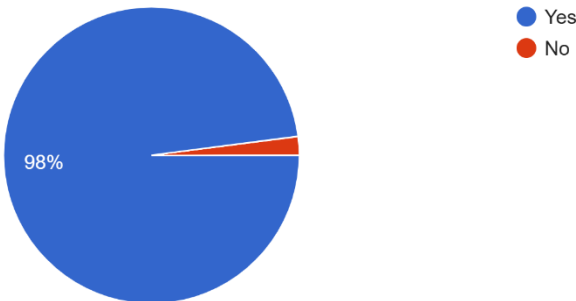
Do you feel your child is safe in school?
49 responses



Does your child know who they can speak to if they are upset or unhappy at school?
49 responses

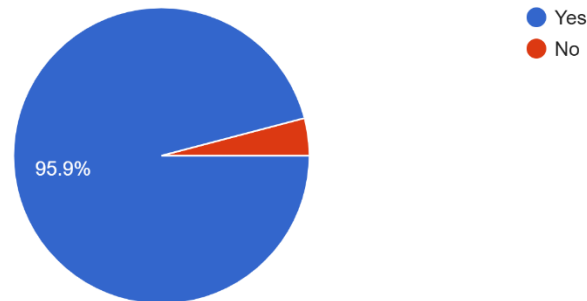


Do you feel the school teaches your child how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle and how to keep physically and mentally healthy?
49 responses



School Council are planning to a poster campaign related to safe parking outside of school. Do you think this is a good project?

49 responses



General Comments

My little boy does take a while to build relationships with new staff and sometimes over thinks things that are said to him. This has caused some concern in the first term but seems to have been dealt with and he seems more settled now.

Lovely school. Lovely teachers

Twitter/X

Although I understand some pupils can't have their pictures taken. Personally I would love to see what my child is doing in school, I know there is X (twitter) I found pre-school and reception keep this up to date but since moving into Y1 I feel there aren't as many pictures uploaded. I understand the teachers have more to worry about than uploading but it's also nice to see as working parents it's nice to see.

Thank you for your comment. Staff have discussed and agreed a frequency of uploading to X which is most weeks. This is more for PS and Reception as their main way of recording assessments/children's work is via photo. We have also had some technical difficulties with some ipads not working well with X which are currently trying to rectify.

Parking

The parking violations outside the school involving parents parking on the double yellow lines appears to have gotten worse.

The poster campaign is essential - the parking and people's driving outside of school is unsafe. I know you constantly ask us to be considerate, but the message doesn't appear to get through!

I think this is positive for the children to learn about this however I don't think this will have any impact. The issue is that there are a lot of students and very limited space to park when collecting children.

The parking outside of school is really unsafe people park on the double yellow lines and have no consideration at all about the safety of children coming in and out of school. Nothing seems to be done about this I just really hope that something major is done before a child is seriously injured or even worse killed, it really makes me mad!!!!

Poster campaign won't stop cars parking on double yellow lines, signs already in place but just ignored. More needs doing to stop this happening as a child will end up getting hurt on the road!

I feel with regards to the parking, maybe do bigger staggered school times, with maybe a 10 minutes parking time.

School parking is a big issue when cars don't leave much room on the path for people and pushchairs to get past think the posters are a great idea.

I'm very pleased about the safe parking campaign

The safe parking project is a great idea as it might encourage parents/carers to think about how they are parking. It has fell on deaf ears over the years so with the children having an involvement hopefully it makes an impact.

I feel the school would benefit from a 20 mph zone outside of school.

I am really pleased with the online and offline safety sessions/updates that have been happening so far this year - wake up Wednesday posts, NSPCC and road safety assemblies. Safe parking posters are a great idea, however I think more needs to be done to enforce the issue with parents/carers. It is becoming very unsafe at drop off and pick up times near the school gates. My child has almost been hit by cars mounting the curb several times and by doors opening on him. Could the school ask the council about bollards or fencing along the road like that outside Tanfield secondary school that follow a large section of the he path? The parking is ridiculous at times but some parents aren't even bothered about children's safety, traffic wardens etc. They still believe they have the right to park wherever they want. It's laziness.

Thank you for your comments on parking. We realise that there is limited space and we do have a staggered drop off in the morning between 8.40 and 8.50 to cater for this. There are alternative parking spots further away (such as the Social Club through the woods) and we want to keep the children and adults safe by not parking on the zig-zags and the double yellow lines. We are pleased that as a result of our assemblies more children are travelling on bikes, scooters and walking. Next year, we will do a 'Living Streets' campaign with the Council, which encourages park and strides, as well as alternative methods to coming to school. We have spoken with the council who have added our school to the list for parking enforcement. Following the May elections, we are exploring the possibilities of a 20mph zone

with the council. The School Council have also organised the Safer Parking posters on the railings outside.

Homework/ Breakfast Club/ Other praise

Home work is an issue as I feel the children are given far too much. Studies show there is no proof this supports the cognitive development of children. It adds unnecessary pressure on the children and is simply evidence of learning and does not provide learning progression. I agree reading is important however I feel any other homework is not valuable. Breakfast club opening time is also an issue as I feel opening at 7:50 is not early enough for parents who start work between 8 and 8:30 for example. It is also a very common occurrence that the gate is not opened at 7:50 but sometime after. This adds further pressures for parents trying to get to work on time as these late openings, be it a few minutes, massively impact our own routes to work and usually result in longer traffic and often arriving at my own place of work late. The gate should be ready to be opened for exactly 7:50 considering we are paying for this already late opening wrap around service. I believe breakfast club would be far more beneficial to parents if it opened somewhere between 7:30-7:45. I would like to leave this comment on a positive note however as other than the issues mentioned, the school has had a huge positive impact on my own child and provided excellent education, support and wellbeing care for my child with additional needs. Staff are always empathetic, understanding and supportive. I can't thank the school enough for its continuous support and commitment to supporting my child in all areas of his development.

Homework is an important extension of embedding learning that has taken place at school and lets parents / carers know what their child has been learning about in school. We feel that we ask the children to complete an appropriate amount and agree that reading is very important. Some adults would prefer more, some would prefer less. We do consider school-home balance in this.

Regarding Breakfast Club, we feel that a 7.50am start is early enough for people to get to work on time, and we need to consider staff who have children to get ready for school as well. The Department for Education guidance is that breakfast clubs should start at 8am and we are earlier than that. The gate is opened at 7.50am but sometime there is a queue for speaking to Mrs Hole. We have discussed this and from September, we will use 2 members of staff on the door to speed up the entry.

Other Concerns

We feel that the school could talk more about mental health.

Well-being is an important part of our Care value. Our PSHE lessons talk about mental health and we have also had the NSPCC in to talk about this. Adults regularly talk about the importance of mental health and the importance of having a trusted adult in school that they can talk to. The school makes adjustments for mental health too.

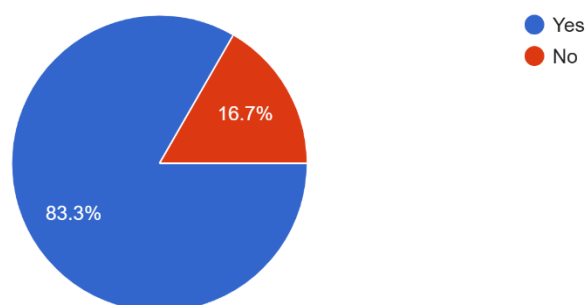
Some concerns about supervision and what goes on in OPAL

OPAL is well-staffed and we are pleased to have received the OPAL Platinum award recently. Every lunch-time, a full-time member of staff is on duty in addition to the lunch time supervisors. This includes the Head Teacher; children are encouraged to raise issues with the

adults where they occur. We hope you were able to attend on one of our OPAL Parent Afternoons.

Section 2: Action taken since last year's feedback.

Careers (Please only answer if your child is in Y5 or Y6) We asked you if you were willing to come in to speak to children in Y5 and Y6 about their job, w...5 and Y6, can you see the benefit of this? – Yes/No
24 responses



I was one of the parents who did this and it was really encouraging to see how engaged the children were and how they are already thinking about what they might like to do for work when they are older.

My children have enjoyed this and found it interesting. This has been great for the children to hear about a range of careers.

My Y6 child said it was a bit boring. I explained that lots of jobs are boring compared to the fun they have whilst learning at school!

It's good for the children to hear about different careers which they may not be familiar with - I know this has generated discussion in our house.

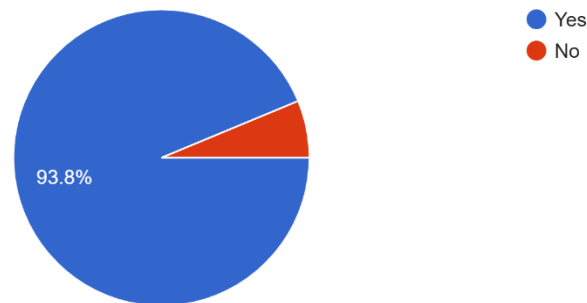
Kellan loved listening to the different careers information and was interested in the different jobs people do. Hopefully it will help him start thinking about what he might like to do in the future and what subjects he needs to do well in to get there.

My daughter enjoyed the career talks.

The careers talks covered a variety of careers – what might be of interest to one child will be less interesting to another. We thank the parents/school community again for giving their time generously to the next generation.

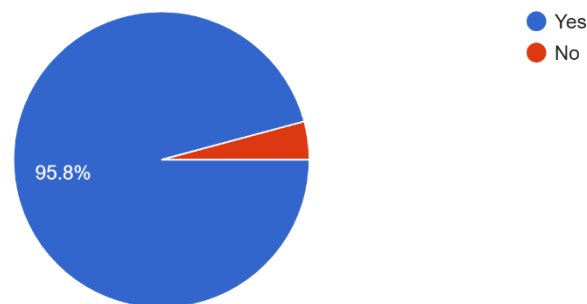
Success Cards (For all parents/carers) Previously parents / carers have commented that their child has not received a success card for a couple of ye...g when they have done something particularly well?

48 responses



Sending Success card postcards home costs the school a stamp and take staff time to complete. Do you value the postcards sent home?

48 responses



General/Frequency of Success Card stamps

It is good to read things that my child has done well at school

I would love to see my child get more I feel she works very hard and gives her all
My child has success stamps, maybe adding to incentives for the stamps - 10/10 on spellings or pupils who haven't had privilege time taken away for the term/year things like that could be an idea.

I think my child is a quieter pupil and I don't know if that affects why they don't get more success card stamps, as they don't seem to have too many.

I think it's a lovely touch

I think the success cards are a great idea. My child enjoys the achievement when she completes and I feel it is motivating good behaviour and allows her to feel proud of her accomplishments.

Yes we love to receive success cards and also my child do they do get excited and show it to all family.

Yes I think they are important and my son has had a few comments this year as apposed to 2 in the last school year.

My children love getting a success card stamp and postcard/certificate and recognition on the assembly. It makes them feel valued.

My child hasn't received a stamp at all in year 2

Sometimes there is confusion between the 10 stamps that the children need to get and the actual success card. All children in Year 2 have received a stamp, and should have received at least 5 or 6, but some won't have got a success card (which is the postcard home and the certificate). The stamps collected this year carry over to next which hopefully means children will be able to achieve a post card next year.

I dont feel that they are rewarded enough, kids thrive from the positive praise.

Success card stamps are special. We are pleased that some responses reflect that these have increased this year. As a school we have make a concerted effort to give between 6 – 12 stamps per year. One of the ways we have increased these is by rewarding 100% attendance in a half-term. This means a child might receive a success card (the certificate / postcard home) once a year or just over.

We also reward children with verbal praise, team points and OPAL awards. Other rewards include Star of the Week, hot chocolate/biscuit treats for good attendance and no loss of Privilege Time, class attendance spinner.

Sending of Postcards.

I would also be happy for this to be sent home in my child's school bag or as an email to save on postage.

I'd be happy for these cards to be given to my child instead of posting them.

While I appreciate the success card system does add an additional layer of cost and admin for staff, I do feel it is a positive experience for the children to have their achievements recognised in a personalised way. My daughter has felt a great sense of pride and achievement when she's received hers

The boys enjoy receiving their cards. We have a post box so we always ask the boys to empty it when we notice they've received their post.

to reduce costs maybe send via email or even hand to child in envelope!

My child was extremely excited when he received his success card in the post.

I don't think they need to be posted especially as some children's personal information probably shouldn't be on something like a postcard that can be seen by anyone. Is this not a safeguarding issue? Not sure how motivating the success cards actually are. My sons are initially excited about them but when asked about it they don't remember how or why they've got them. It was the same for my niece and nephew.

Both of my children talk about success cards and we as parents enjoy receiving them. The postcards are appreciated but we also appreciate the price of postage has increased dramatically. The value of the postcard is that we appreciate the time the teacher has taken to acknowledge and celebrate some positives about our child. The home/school relationship and teacher/child relationship is important therefore, a little time taken to write a postcard holds great value.

The success postcards all go on my children's wall to view when they are received. They make my children feel happy to have a personal message from their teacher that's been sent in the post.

both of my children have received success cards this academic year and have both been personal to them

However if it saved the school money I would be happy for this to be sent home with my daughter.

I like how the success cards are sent in the post but I don't think it matters if they were just given to them at school. Personally I think they would be happier with that as the teacher can celebrate their achievements and I think they would appreciate it more than getting it in the post.

Send success card home with Child. Weekly or termly certificates for Kindness/ star of week / positive of creative thinking / sports etc

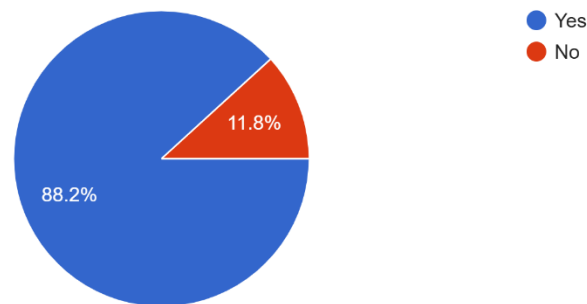
It is apparent that parents and children value the postcards sent home celebrating children's hard work. The cost of this has significantly risen so we appreciate the thoughtful comments regarding this. Following the suggestions made, next year we have agreed that children will still receive a postcard, but this will be presented in class during the Friday assembly alongside their certificate. Children will bring both home in their bag. This will also alleviate any safeguarding concerns that were raised.

With our focus on 5 Values, (Turn Up, Learn, Care, Persevere and Shine), we aim to reward these values more through the Weekly assembly and through success card stamps. We already reward Turning Up and Shining, but will focus more on Learning, Caring (Kindness) and Perseverance in the next school year.

Section 3: Improvements made this year

Toothbrushing (Please answer if your child is in Pre-School or Reception) Mrs Sparkes has introduced toothbrushing into Early Years. Can you see the benefit of this to your child's health?

17 responses



Amazing scheme it's really helping Charlie come along as he struggled at home.

As a dental nurse the rise in children attending the dentist with decay seems to have vastly increased over the last few years. Educating children in oral health at an early age I would hope would be hugely beneficial to children in the prevention of dental disease. Therefore I think tooth brushing at school is fantastic.

Absolutely! My child is so much better with her teeth brushing at home as a result and it shows as her younger brother copies. It has been great.

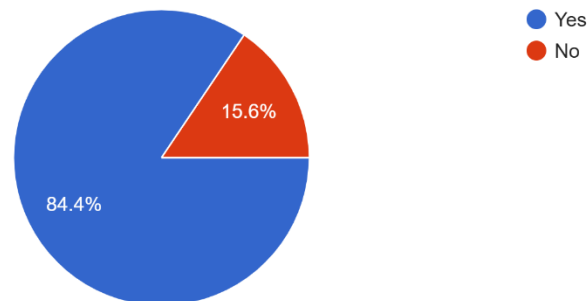
I think in general this is a great initiative.

My child is enjoying this in pre school

Great idea. Positive healthy habits. Child is excited to do this.

Thank you sharing this, we will continue this next year.

Handwriting (Please answer if your child is in Y1 - Y6) As a school, we have been focussing on handwriting by explicitly teaching letter joins, incl... noticed an improvement in your child's handwriting?
45 responses



Despite our efforts to encourage her, my daughter showed little interest in writing before starting school. However, since entering reception, Mrs. Sparkes, Mrs. Davidge, and other staff members have been instrumental in assisting her with her writing skills. While there is still room for improvement, she is gradually making progress.

It is clear to see in my child, the work that has gone into improving handwriting.

I had no concerns with my child's handwriting.

My son has made significant progress within his handwriting and fine motor control.

My child has very neat, fluent handwriting and take pride in it.

My youngest son is struggling with cursive handwriting. We understand this is an area of focus for him.

This was particularly evident in the Creative writing book and handwriting book on parents evening - to be fully effective it should be encouraged and expected across all subjects.

(XXX)'s writing isn't the best but I have found I can read his writing better since he is writing joined up and he is becoming more confident about it.

My daughter's handwriting has impressed us this year.

This is the only area of concern with my child's development following parents evening

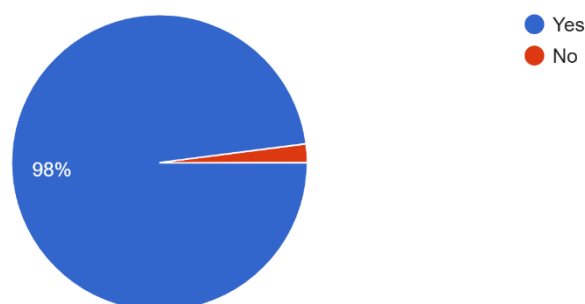
I don't know if joined writing is a requirement set for the school, but it's always seemed a bit wild to me that the focus is not more on clarity and legibility rather than joining letters, particularly these days when so many pupils presumably struggle with support for this method at home. I can think of very few adults I know who join their letters, but as long as their writing is decently presented and readable it doesn't seem to be a problem, to me.

Since starting pre-cursive handwriting both of my sons handwriting has gotten more untidy and less legible. Why is pre-cursive and cursive handwriting still taught at the school when it is not a curriculum requirement? It is not a 'skill' they will use past Y6! In our experience it has added unnecessary stress, worry and confusion and has meant that one of our sons no longer enjoys writing.

My son's handwriting is worse for 'joining up' he is becoming increasingly frustrated and has even gone back to using a pencil. He can write perfectly clearly not joining up so I do not see an improvement.

Handwriting across school has been an area of focus throughout the year. Next year, we will be focussing on correct letter formation in Reception and the first term in Year 1 before moving children forward on their journey to cursive writing. Joined writing is a National Curriculum expectation and we work towards preparing our children for this. We also use our school's growth mindset to encourage children to keep trying, even if at times this is tricky. However, as an assessment focus the quality and content are equally as important as presentation.

OPAL (For all parents / carers) Our school prides itself on the Outdoor Play and Learning offer. This year we have opened 2 water play zones, a Co... weekly OPAL award. Does your child enjoy OPAL?
49 responses



My child loves being on the go and being outdoors and learns better seeing/doing rather than reading as her attention sometimes wanders.

My child really enjoys being able to get out an play during break times.

My children feel they would like more outdoor activities. More on the field area.

I think this is absolutely vital and one of the reasons we wanted tour children to attend Tanfield Lea over other Primary schools in the area. Children need to be outside and able to burn energy and explore and learn outside of a classroom environment. I welcome as much outside play and learning as possible

I wasn't aware of OPAL. I answered yes though, because I think she would enjoy this although she hasn't mentioned it

OPAL is an extremely important tool for my child to support his regulation and development. Yes my children enjoy OPAL but when needing wellies my children always come out of school saying they are missing both in lower school and upper school

It was great to see pictures of my child on the wall in school enjoying OPAL play.

They do enjoy OPAL but tend to spend most of their time playing football.

Both of my children y4 and y1 love outdoor play. My son was very excited when he got the opal award certificate and that he was pictured in the assembly. My children absolutely love OPAL, especially the mud kitchen and sand area.

Needing a comment

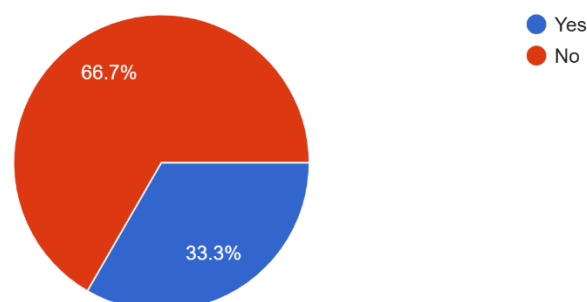
I like the opportunity for parents/families to contribute to the replenishing of resources eg: bike/scooters when outgrown - could reminders be sent out - we're happy to contribute but sometimes forget!

Some concerns regarding supervision. Fighting/ hitting and tales of another child being locked in welly shed

Information about OPAL can be found on our school website where you find a link to the official OPAL website. Each school newsletter contains an OPAL update and suggests any donations we would appreciate to replenish our resources. Boxes have been placed at the school entrance to be filled with any donations. However, we are more than happy to accept donations at any point during the year. We greatly appreciate all your donations as OPAL would not be as successful as it is without these. All zones within OPAL are supervised by a member of staff who are highly visible, and all children are aware of the expectations within each zone. Any issues arising outside are swiftly resolved by staff and consequences are in place for negative behaviour.

Wrap-Around Care (For parents/carers who use After-School Care) School is exploring the possibility of After-School Care running until 6pm. ...interested in After-School Care that runs until 6pm?

39 responses



Section 3: The chance for you to say more

In your opinion, what are the school's strengths – what do we do well?

Communication Praise

Excellent communication through newsletters and emails, and regular updates on pupil's progress. Particularly good support in Year 6 ahead of SAT's.

Excellent communication Friendly staff

Your communication is excellent. Any issues are dealt with quickly and effectively. The transition of a new headteacher seems to have gone perfectly.

Teaching Staff/Educational Praise

Lots of the staff are approachable and happy to help when needed. My little boy is happy at school and enjoys his lessons he is becoming more confident with his writing and drawing which has taken lots of work from his teacher and support staff since September and we appreciate the work they have done to encourage his writing.

I think the staff work hard and take the time to help the children reach their potential. My children have excelled at the school.

Great educational teachers

Opal Reading Behaviour High expectations Send Supporting confidence and self-esteem Working on individual targets

The close relationship between the staff and the children. Staff really know each child. The teaching around reading and writing is exceptional.

The school is a nice school. My children's teachers appear to really care about the children they are teaching (pre school and 3k) Miss Keith has been great for my child this year and I feel like she is the first teacher to really understand the help he needs and has suggested and implemented different things to try and help him.

Praise about Personal Development

OPAL and keeping parents up to date of upcoming events (email) such a big help when we're working parents and sometimes it's hard to juggle what's on. My child seems very settled and is happy going to school which shows to me she is safe and cared for.

I like that staff are always encouraging of additional projects and have time to hear children's ideas and assist where they can

Both of my children enjoy school. As mentioned earlier I'm pleased to see more focus on online/offline safety and the use of guest speakers for assemblies. I'm not sure if this was happening as often last academic year or if the boys just didn't talk about it?

The range of things that are offered to the children to extend their experiences. The y4 Gala was amazing and helps children to grow in confidence.

Health and Safety Praise

I am always impressed by the school's attitude to security and safety, with doors and gates being locked accordingly; some schools are open for anybody to walk into completely unchallenged.

General Praise

The school have been great, I feel my daughter is well above where she would be expected to be. She is 5, can read and write and tell me about a load of different cultural events. I also feel they celebrate what my daughter gets up to out of school, e.g sports classes, theatre etc. The support given to my child since his transition last year from his previous school has been outstanding. The level of teaching as well as teaching assistant support is excellent. I understand my child can be challenging but the support provided to him by various members of staff has been great. I would like to mention Mrs Armin and Mrs Watson as they have provided outstanding levels of nurturing, structure and support for my son who thinks very highly of both of these members of staff. I don't know what myself and my son would have done without them. I can't thank them enough for their continued support and genuine understanding and care for my child. Outstanding members of staff and are a credit to the school.

The school is very good in my opinion they do well in all areas

I think the school has a fantastic play section and great education system

Children are given lots of experiences. Staff are approachable. The school goes above and beyond to offer children a range of opportunities.

My child is happy and thoroughly enjoys school, so clearly you are doing something right. I appreciate the level of communication received from the school and is not too overwhelming. One of my sons has additional needs and can struggle with a lot of what is expected of him at school. This year his teacher has been fantastic at getting extra support for him and putting things in place to help him feel more secure. Thank you!

Teacher/Parent communication

Consistency of systems - the dates for the diary are good and allow for forward planning to attend events etc... The paperwork shared before and at parents evening is great too. The school performances, church services and opportunities to work with other schools is great.

The school supports my children's learning, by understanding how they learn best. Interventions allow my children to increase their knowledge in areas they struggle in and I have seen improvements in these certain areas. The school also keep me up to date, with reminders by e.mail, and news letters.

I find the school very approachable when I have a question or concern. I am listened to and concerns are always allayed or resolved.

Valuing the children with rewards. Holding many events and activities for them to enjoy and get involved in e.g. sport events, gala theatre, choir etc. Communication via emails and newsletters.

I think the school provides a good quality of education to my daughter and she is thriving. Giving children a sense of pride in their school

I think that the school has lovely staff and the teachers really care about their students and most children care about the teachers too.

My children always feel valued and that they are doing well, even when they are struggling with the curriculum expectations. They have a positive mindset and always love coming to school.

Love regular feedback and updates about progress

What opportunities is your child offered that you really value which support their personal development?

My little boy loves doing the sports activities in after care and breakfast club he loves accessing OPAL. My little boy has made a good group of friends since starting school and is happy at school.

After school craft club - this improved her social skills, confidence and creativity.

My child enjoyed having the opportunity to perform in the Tanfield's Got Talent show.

Swimming class

Booster lessons in anticipation of SAT's. Opportunities to visit places outside of school to support curriculum learning.

This year the opportunity to be apart of the Lego robotics. Drama group has also been a great new opportunity.

Trips and visits Music lessons Extra curriculum lessons

School council and choir

Choir School council Leadership such as prefect, buddy, welly monitor etc

Success cards - support all round achievement and wellbeing of my child. Additional classes/activities such as little dribblers and having an author come in for the young children. Christmas activities were magical for them as well. All round they have been great.

Sen support plan is outstanding and highly supportive of my child's progression.

Chance to play an instrument, chance to perform, privilege time, special meal days, OPAL

The teachers are great and support our daughter in all aspect as she is quite shy. howtown, grinton lodge and external visits.

My child has come on so much in the little time he has been at Tanfield. I think it's an amazing school and the teachers literally can not do enough for my son

Brain breaks when he is overwhelmed. Access to sensory equipment and toys when he is showing sensory seeking behaviour.

My children are both involved in lots of sporting activities and we love this as it helps with health, fitness, teamwork and confidence. Huge thanks to mainly Mr Ashman & Mr McIntosh for this.

After school clubs

The residential visits are particularly important and provide valuable opportunities with their peers.

My child has been given the opportunity to join the choir, which then resulted in them getting the chance to sing on stage at the Gala Theatre. This opportunity enabled my child to gain self confidence. Tanfield's Got Talent also enabled similar opportunities to gain self-confidence on stage.

The intervention offered for my year 3 child has made a big difference to their academic development. The opportunity to go on school trips and also weekly swimming and music lessons has helped their personal development. The opal opportunities have also given both of my children the chance to be themselves and play outside freely.

Membership of the school council has been really helpful/enjoyable for our son.

Being invited to represent the school for sports events, they are both passionate about sports and it gives them an experience they can be proud to be involved in and work well at. The Residential trips are also a great opportunity for the children to be away from home and experience new challenges and give them some independence.

Swimming, performing on stage at the Gala, football training sessions, learning the ukulele, after school clubs.

Opportunities to take part in competitions with other school, educational visits etc

My child was chosen to join school council and Tanfields got Talent which has done amazing for her confidence. My child would never have done that a year ago so to her see her confidence grow is absolutely amazing. Thank you to Mr Temple for letting her perform at the Gala theatre too. It was a beautiful moment. I can't keep her off the stage now. Ha ha.

Large selection of books choices has really enhanced reading enjoyment.

It is lovely to read all of the positive comments and it is clear that there are many things that the community values as part of our school. Thank you for taking the time to share these with us.

What do you think the school could do to improve?

Better communication with teachers and office. I understand they are busy but do feel some messages are not always passed on or actioned. I have emailed on 2 occasions regarding information about my child which have been over looked. I have also given verbal messages and written notes at drop off which then are not passed to the appropriate person. One was regarding my child being absent for a hospital appointment the other was regarding school meals when my child was having issues with the change of school menu.

We try our best to ensure that messages are communicated from the office to teachers and vice-versa. An email to the school is always the most effective way to ensure information reaches the correct member of staff. Staff will always be forwarded emails that are relevant to the pupils in their class. We apologise for the rare instances where these are missed.

I recognise that home learning is an essential component of education, but it can also impose significant stress on both children and parents. As working parents, we often struggle to find an appropriate balance between quality family time and managing homework responsibilities. Currently, our child is required to learn spellings, complete assignments from her home learning book, and read three times a week, which seems overwhelming for her to absorb. She returns home at approximately 15:20 after school, and with only four hours each evening to allocate for home learning, family time, independence, and socialising before bedtime, it becomes increasingly challenging to fit in everything, especially as we also work on weekends and she visits grandparent's who aren't local.

Other than reading, I feel that the home learning tasks are pointless. I feel that spelling lists are old fashioned and unhelpful.

Homework is an important extension of embedding learning that has taken place at school and lets parents / carers know what their child has been learning about in school. We feel that we ask the children to complete an appropriate amount and feel that reading and spellings are very important. At the end of Year 6, children sit SATS and spelling is a key component of the SPAG papers. Also, confidence in spelling allows children to focus on other areas of writing such as punctuation, vocabulary choice and style. For older children, homework helps prepare them for

the expectations of secondary education. They also have the option to complete home-learning in class during a break or lunch time if they prefer; some children choose this approach. Please use the parental comments part of home learning if you feel work is taking too long to complete at home.

With regards to after school clubs, we as a family heavily rely on this. It would be really helpful if this would continue in the school holidays to a later time rather than 3pm school times, as I have to put Heidi in a different schools holiday camp which provides care until 5.30pm

As a school we are focussing on breakfast club and aftercare this year because we will be running it ourselves rather than using an external company. We will use our newsletters to signpost families to holiday clubs in the local area, including at the Activity Den. This may be something we look at in the future.

I would like to see greater enforcement of parents not parking on the double yellow lines outside the school as well as having a no smoking/no vaping zone directly outside the school.

car parking issue outside of school

The parking on the mornings, although I know this is an ongoing battle

We have raised the profile of safer parking at school and agree that it is an important issue. Next year, we hope to promote walking to school as an alternative. School is a no smoking / no vaping zone. We are unable to enforce this outside of the school grounds.

Learn more about everyone it is different and no need bullying somebody else. Try to be friend

Can't think of anything. It is an excellent, supportive school.

There is still a lack of photos on X. If this was more consistent then we could see the great learning in school. Some teachers do this well but nothing from others. This is also the same with the success stamps.

We have worked hard to try and create equality with success card stamps (see response to this on page 8). Pre-school and Reception classes use photographs as the main way of recording children's progress. This makes it easier for these classes so to share their photos. As mentioned above, we have had some ICT issues connecting to X. Teachers have made efforts to increase the frequency of posting. Some children do not have parental consent to be photographed which makes this more difficult.

Offer more sports opportunities for ALL students.

All children from Year 1 onwards have a sports festival each year. This gives them opportunity to sample different sporting experiences with other schools. As we are planning to join the Chester-

le-Street Sports Partnership, this will result in Reception joining festivals as well as more sporting competitions.

A small thing, but it would be great if the y3/4 kids could come out before the y5/6 classes, many of whom walk home alone. Only for the parents stood outside waiting with younger kids, particularly during cold and wet weather.

Timings are set up so that parents with children in both the lower school and upper school have time to collect their children from the lower school first, speak to a member of staff if needed, and then have time to get to the upper school yard before the other children finish for the day.

Classes in the upper school all finish at 15:15. However, as Year 5 and 6 are not escorted to the yard by a teacher (they are dismissed from the porches), they will often appear outside first.

Nothing

Wraparound Care

A rotation of afterschool clubs, not wrap around care, science club, karaoke club, lego club, different sports clubs. For all ages. More praise for the kids who rarely do anything wrong, don't feel like they get credit for consistently being well behaved.

Earlier breakfast club and later wrap around

Breakfast club to include pre school and start from 7:40

Open breakfast club half at least half an hour earlier

Open breakfast club a little earlier and less homework.

Please see the comment above on page 5 about Breakfast Club and homework.

Will the school be joining in with free breakfast club?

Our school was not one of government's pilot schools for free breakfast club. We will inform you when the Department for Education gives further information about this.

I have no concerns. I feel my children are thriving. I would like more communication about behaviour as I'd like to reinforce messages about better choices. I realise this would be time consuming for the class teacher however an email anything about hitting/kicking other children or total loss of privilege time would be appreciated.

We are glad you feel your children are thriving. Our staff prefer to communicate such issues via the phone/seeing you at home time. If you remain concerned about this, please contact Mr Temple.

I feel that my child does a lot of extra 'roles' in school that I am unaware of, (i.e. team captain, reading helper etc.) it maybe worth considering a spotlight in a newsletter or something similar to give praise to those children that go above and beyond.

There are many children who go above and beyond. These children are recognised in school (either by a badge or in the case of team captains on a display in the lobby). We are very grateful for the support they give the school community.

I think ALL staff, including TAs, CNS/PE and lunchtime supervisory staff should have trauma training. I know that as well as my 2, there are several other children who are looked after/adopted and they will have trauma related behaviours and trauma needs. I am aware that the school have been offered free trauma training by my sons Full Circle counsellor several times but it hasn't happened.

We have planned trauma training for next academic year.

Put signs up to remind parents of the one way system.

We appreciate that for footballers, representing the school is something they look forward to and has become almost a right of passage. This year, some teams have comprised of both Year 5 and 6 children therefore some children in Year 6, who have looked forward to this privilege have not had this opportunity, despite attending all training sessions - where there are enough children in available in Year 6 - we feel they should be chosen over Year 5 children who will have the opportunity the following year.

Competitive sport is always a subject that creates debate. This year, we have entered children in Year 6 only competitions as well as Year 5/6 competitions. We are very proud of the offer that we give Year 6 children that if they come to training, they will get a chance to represent the school.

I think that this has been dealt with now but at the beginning of the school year the previous teacher hadn't passed on to my sons new teacher that he was adopted and this could have had serious consequences. When raised as a major issue I was contacted by both the class teacher and head but I think when passing through school years teachers need to make sure they are passing EVERYTHING over and not just academics.

We endeavour to keep improving our systems for handing on information. This information is now recorded and we have had staff training on it so we were glad that you brought it to our attention.

Ensure children are receiving even-handed treatment in PE lessons
Sporting activities need to be offered to all children, it always seems to be the same children that are picked to do the competitions on behalf of the school.

Children receive support in all lessons, including PE, to allow them to participate. School runs sports festivals for all children and has competitions like sports days. There are some very sporty children who regularly represent the school, just as talented computing coders are part of the Lego team. Part of the Sports Premium we receive is to offer competitive sporting opportunities. However, there are some children who do better in some sports than others, so a child representing the school in athletics or swimming might be different from those representing the school in rugby.

Currently don't have any issues that would require improvement.

Nothing

Giving feedback on other subjects throughout the year, not just the core reading, writing and maths.

The only thing I would say about this is when the children go on school trips maybe let them contact home when they get there or half way through the trip. I understand why you don't want them contacting parents because it might make them worse but personally with my child I think it would make her feel better if she could speak to me while away and she wouldn't miss home as much. I think no contact made her more sad when she went to Grinton. I also think they should be allowed to have game consoles or iPads on the evening too just to entertain themselves a bit more. Obviously that's just my opinion but I think they would be more settled if they had something like that. That may not work but maybe it could be given a try. Also more photos would be appreciated as we miss them just as much as they miss us and we wait and look forward to those pictures of our child to make sure they are ok. They were very sparse at Grinton. Also my child has sleeping issues so she struggles on a night time so would someone please keep a check on her on the next school trip please as she gets very distressed. It would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Thank you for your comment. We hope that the children can have a 'digital detox' whilst on residential with friends, playing games or enjoying the annual talent show. Allowing devices would be difficult to manage and would be another thing for the staff to manage. There are very rare occasions where distressed children could call home, but being away is a big part of the challenge. Staff take photographs to let you know they are safe, eating and enjoying some of the activities, but our rural destinations often don't have good wifi and our staff are busy supporting the children.

Other Comments

Could the possibility of breakfast club being open earlier even by 10 minutes be explored i would be happy to pay more and it would benefit alot of parents already using it.

[See the breakfast club comment above on page 5.](#)

My child received great support when she fractured her leg and had to wear a cast for 6 weeks; the school has very good accessibility facilities.

I was penalised for my child being off due to being up all night before a multi skills event that my child was extremely nervous about, I was told I should of spoke to school before then to prevent absence. Both me and my child were only told about this the day before the event therefore I was unable to prepare him for the change in timetable. If I had prior knowledge then I absolutely would of dealt with it

All of our multi-skills festivals are on the Dates for the Diary published in September and a paper copy is handed out. Reminders are often sent the day before. If you have any concerns about an anxious child, please let the class teacher know or email the school so we can prepare them and adapt the activity where possible.

Our girls love school. They are happy and they are learning which is all we can ask for. We are concerned about the use of 'X' as the platform to share photos etc... There are a number of individuals and groups who use this platform to promote and share extreme views (relating to race, misogyny, violence etc..) which we do not agree with in any way. Many organisations, such as the Police, are already moving away from this platform - would school consider this too?

Thank you for your comment. During the Meet the Head Teacher session this came up too. Parents have commented that they are only on X/Twitter for the school's posts. We are exploring using a different social media platform, such as Facebook which is used more by parents, to share our learning. The group would have similar safeguards to our use of X, such as by being a closed group.

Mrs Dunham and the pre school staff do a wonderful job and really make a difference to my daughter's life! She will be gutted when she joins reception in September! Miss Keith deserves credit for the time she has taken to really help my son this year. She has him in intervention for reading and writing and has implemented different strategies to help him both in and out of the classroom. She has communicated frequently with myself and provides decent and knowledgeable feedback at parents evenings. She is the first teacher that I can honestly say has taken the time to help and understand my son.

Which year groups do you have children in? Please tick all that apply.

49 responses

