Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for your responses to the school questionnaire earlier this year and apologies that it has taken until now to organise an answer. As you know, the school has seen many changes recently, many of which are as a direct result of your suggestions.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with over 96% stating that the school meets or exceeds expectations. Many also took the time to highlight things we’re doing well, or to thank individual members of staff. This was very much appreciated and was passed on to those concerned.

Any comments relating directly to your child should, by now, have been responded to individually. If this is not the case, or you still have concerns, please contact the school.

There were some areas highlighted where the school may be able to learn and improve, which are covered below.

**Communication**

Many people stated that they would appreciate a better level of communication between home and school, with those who have experienced ‘Tapestry’, in Reception, asking why it stops after that year.

As well as being a fun tool for children and parents, Tapestry is primarily focussed on the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). It allows teachers to communicate progress in the various categories at that stage, back to carers. It does not, unfortunately, extend to KS1 (Key Stage 1) or above.

We recognise that when a child enters Y1, this rich feedback is lost in favour of whatever our children want to tell us!

To ease the move from Reception to Y1, Mrs Weatherspoon arranged a transition meeting to give parents an insight into what to expect and to allow any questions to be raised. This will repeated next year.

Information about all years is now available on the school website.

Other channels of home/school communication are:

1. Pop-ins during the autumn and spring terms (if pop-in time is not sufficient, we have an open door policy where parents can make an appointment with teachers or the head)
2. Reports at the end of the summer term
3. Home/School diaries
4. As of this year, a senior leader is always available on the yard in the mornings

In terms of the day-to-day school diary, the newsletter outlines the week ahead and the term diary is on the website under ‘calendar’, here:

<http://www.ovinghamfirst.northumberland.sch.uk/website/calendar>

Many people stated a desire for more information from the governors and, therefore, we will be adding a summary of meetings to the newsletter and publishing minutes on the website. Under the new MAT structure, local governing bodies will meet six times per year.

If you wish to contact a governor, please email the school office on [admin@ovinghamfirst.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ovinghamfirst.northumberland.sch.uk). Please also feel free to approach parent governors at any time. The current list of governors can be found on the website.

**Homework**

Homework always generates some interesting comments as people can have opposing views on the amount and level that it should be set at.

Although most parents said the school has this about right, September saw a change in emphasis on homework, making it more regular to support work done in class. We have also introduced homework books as many people mentioned the dog-eared single sheets!

For those who feel they would like to do more, there are several resources that are used in school, which can be accessed online. These include:

* School360 - Interactive activities and cross-curricular resources
* MyMaths - Online teaching and homework resource
* Hour of code - A fun introduction to computer science

**Languages**

We follow the national curriculum for languages. Currently, French is taught from KS2 (Y3+) and there is a small amount of informal learning at KS1 and Reception. French was chosen because this feeds into the curriculum at Ovingham Middle School.

**Playtime**

Y4 has been learning some playtime games in PE to support the younger children during their buddy duty.

Although it is difficult to routinely use the field during wet weather, we are exploring the possibility of using this more from the spring term, with children bringing suitable outdoor footwear one day per week.

**Trips and extracurricular**

The school is committed to providing opportunities to learn outside the classroom. Mrs Aldridge is going to review the trips that take place during the year and look for opportunities to increase these for each year group.

We are exploring options for non-sport clubs during lunchtimes and after school.

**Other**

*The Daily Mile* - this is a popular idea and further discussion is underway about how to add it to the school day for everyone. In the mean-time, the new playground markings state “22 laps per mile”, and some children have already taken it upon themselves to get started!

*Parking* - we continually work with the middle school and council to improve safety. We are also looking at the possibility of reorganising the middle school car park to create more spaces.

*Photographs of school performances* **-** Unfortunately, for safeguarding reasons, we can’t allow cameras during school performances. We will continue to provide photographs of the events taking place in school where possible.

We hope this answers most people’s queries from the questionnaire. Please don’t hesitate to contact the school if you wish to discuss anything further.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wallis

On behalf of the governors