



Heather Garth
Primary Academy
Stars Aiming High

Parent and Carers' Questionnaire

This document presents the results of our latest questionnaires sent out January 2022.

Thank you to all parents/carers that completed our questionnaire.

Your views count!



Heather Garth
Primary Academy
Stars Aiming High

Our Vision

To be an academy that is striving to achieve outstanding - for our children.

Where every child exceeds or at least reaches their potential - by being immersed in a stimulating learning environment. Supported by a team of professionals who work collaboratively to care not only for the children's education and preparing them for life-long learning, but their personal development and well-being.

A place where all differences are celebrated, and children are happy and safe with a sense of belonging. They are surrounded by a supportive community of parents/carers and extended families, who are effectively included in their child's learning and development.

Written in collaboration with Heather Garth governors, staff and children.

<https://www.heathergarth.org/page/our-vision-and-aims/60300>

Thank you very much to everyone who completed the parent questionnaire we sent out in January, we received 33 (50%) family responses from Foundation Stage 1 and Foundation Stage 2.

Thank you very much to everyone who completed the parent questionnaire we sent out in January, we received 56 (41%) family responses from Year 1 to 6.

Throughout the questionnaire we were very touched by the number of highly positive responses. Be assured however, we have taken on board any improvement points raised and where possible they will be addressed. We know that perfection, though we aim for it, is impossible to reach, but constant improvement, including having a mind open to supportive criticism, is vital and we hope you will see this in the comments that follow.

We have responded, where possible, to the comments / percentages and given our explanations/reasons and we hope this will clarify any queries you may have had. Remember we are all here for one reason and that is for your child/ren and their development. There are some questions we would like to clarify if you were the one that gave that response and this may help us to clarify the response further. If you have put your name on the questionnaire, we may be in touch to get your thoughts on other responses. Please do not feel pressured, and if you would rather not, please say, but we would like to ask your thoughts on how you feel we could improve this further.

Any further comments, you wish you had written, please do not hesitate to catch us in the school playground or make an appointment to see us. Our door is always open, and we welcome all opinions from parents (positive or improvements needed) we will always listen, and respect your views. It is essential for everyone that we work together to ensure Heather Garth is the best it can be for everyone.

Once again, thank you for taking time to complete our questionnaires.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Winnard
Headteacher

Mrs Sandra Farr
Chair of Governors

Winners of the Tesco's vouchers go to:

Foundation Stage

Ms B Gill

Year 1 to Year 6

Ms S Leak

Congratulations!!

Foundation Stage Questionnaire

Please note - some % may not total 100% due to rounding. Each response is worth approximately 3% (1 person = 3%).

1. Pastoral and Wellbeing - The induction process into Foundation Stage provided answers to my questions which helped my child to settling in well.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
58%	35%	3%		3%	93%
Induction time for both FS1 and FS2 children was during COVID. Please remember that Foundation Stage staff and Mrs Bennett are always available and to answer any questions and support you as a family. Please do not be afraid to ask how your child is doing.					

2. Pastoral and Wellbeing – My child enjoys school and is happy.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
79%	21%				100%

3. Pastoral and Wellbeing – My child is kept safe and well looked after.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
88%	12%				100%

4. Pastoral and Wellbeing – My child is encouraged to become independent and take responsibility.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
73%	27%				100%

5. Pastoral and Wellbeing – My child is taught how to form positive relationships with other children.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
61%	36%			3%	97%
If you responded as 'can't comment/don't know', we hope that you will be able to attend the arranged coffee afternoon to meet the team. The discussion around learning in the FS will help support your understanding about what is taught and how. If you are unable to attend please contact Mr Fisher who will be able to explain how positive relationships are encouraged and developed.					

6. Pastoral and Wellbeing – My child is encouraged to be healthy.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
67%	27%			6%	94%
If you responded as 'can't comment/don't know', please refer to the response on question 5.					

7. Pastoral and Wellbeing – As a parent I feel welcome at the school.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
64%	36%				100%

8. Learning and the Curriculum - My child is supported to meet their potential through high expectations and they do well at school.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
70%	27%			3%	97%
If you responded as 'can't comment/don't know', please refer to the response on question 5. We also have our parent consultation in March, we hope you will be able to attend.					

9. Learning and the Curriculum - The setting is stimulating for my child.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
70%	30%				100%

10. Learning and the Curriculum - There is a good range of activities available to meet the needs of my child.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
72%	22%			6%	94%
If you responded as 'can't comment/don't know', please refer to the response on question 5.					

11. Learning and the Curriculum - My child is making good progress.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
67%	24%			9%	91%
If you responded as 'can't comment/don't know', please refer to the response on question 5. We also have our parent consultation in March, we hope you will be able to attend.					

12. Learning and the Curriculum - Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	
Yes	No
9%	91%

13. Learning and the Curriculum - My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.					
My child/ren does/do not have SEND	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know
71%	3%	6%			19%
Parents who identified their child does not have SEND, ticked the 'can't comment/don't know box, which is why this response is higher than expected.					

14. Learning and the Curriculum - I am provided with helpful advice about activities we could do at home to support my child's learning and development.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
45%	42%	6%		6%	87%
If you responded as 'can't comment/don't know' or disagree we hope that you will be able to attend the arranged coffee afternoon to meet the team. The discussion around learning in the FS will help support your understanding about what is taught and how and how you can help support your child's learning and development. If you are unable to attend please contact Mr Fisher/Mrs Roach who will be able to share some strategies with you.					

15. Behaviour - There is a good standard of behaviour and action is taken when necessary.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
61%	33%			6%	94%

If you responded as 'can't comment/don't know', please refer to the response on question 5. Please note that we have a 100% response on the question below and question 18. We believe that teaching and modelling expectations of positive behaviour goes 'hand in hand' with expected outcomes.

16. Behaviour - Staff encourage children to behave appropriately.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
76%	24%				100%

17. Behaviour - If I have any concerns regarding behaviour staff act quickly.

I have never had to raise any behaviour concerns	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % positive response
45%	24%	24%			6%	94%

If we have a response of 'I have never had to raise a behaviour concern' or 'can't comment /don't know then we believe that concerns are addressed quickly. Please contact Mr Fisher if you wish to discuss this further.

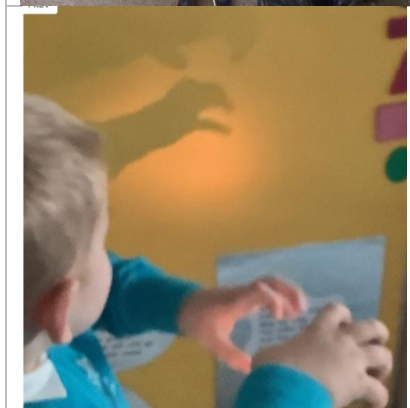
18. Behaviour - Staff encourage children to behave appropriately.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
66%	34%				100%

19. I would recommend this school to another parent.

Yes	No
97%	3%

If you ticked the box 'no' please contact us to discuss this further. We do not wish any parent or child to be unhappy with our school and what we provide. Starting in Foundation Stage means your child could have 8 years in our care and it is a long time for your family to spend with our school if you are not happy.



Year 1 to Year 6 Questionnaire

Please note - some % may not total 100% due to rounding. Each response is worth approximately 2% (1 person = 2%).

1. Pastoral and Wellbeing - My child/ren enjoys school and is/are happy.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
61%	21%			2%	98%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know', please talk to your child and then come and talk to us if they are not happy, or contact us and we can talk to them about their feelings. We want every child to be happy at school.					

2. Pastoral and Wellbeing - The school keeps my child/ren safe.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
64%	36%				100%

3. Pastoral and Wellbeing - My child/ren is/are encouraged to take responsibility.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
58%	40%			2%	98%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know', please ask your child about our responsible learner expectations and roles they take in school. The expectations are also in the school planner.					

4. Pastoral and Wellbeing - My child/ren has/have someone in school they can talk to if anything worries them.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
55%	36%			9%	91%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know', remind your child and talk to them about their helping hand they produce in September and referred to through the year. If your child has any worries please tell them to talk to a member of staff or contact Mrs Bennett and she will support you.					

5. Pastoral and Wellbeing - My child/ren is/are confident that should they have a problem in school, there is someone in school they can go to for help.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
49%	42%			9%	91%
Please refer to point 4 above.					

6. Pastoral and Wellbeing - My child/ren is/are encouraged to get on with everyone and to recognise that everyone is different.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
63%	38%				100%

7. Pastoral and Wellbeing - As a parent I feel welcome at the school.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
51%	48%			2%	98%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know', during COVID things haven't been the same but we are hoping to start our parent sessions back up next term, this might help you feel more welcome. Please remember we are here for everyone and we want everyone to feel welcome.					

8. Learning and the Curriculum - Heather Garth has high expectations for my child/ren and they do well at school.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
56%	46%				100%

9. Learning and the Curriculum - My child/ren is/are encouraged to work hard and achieve his or her best.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
59%	41%				100%

10. Learning and the Curriculum - There is a good range of subjects available to my child/ren.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
49%	47%			4%	96%

If your response was 'can't comment/don't know ', please check out the blog and year group website page, this might help a conversation starter with your child. The page gives you all the subjects your child accesses through the year. The parent consultation is in March, talk to the teacher then or contact school to arrange an appointment.

11. Learning and the Curriculum - My child/ren finds the work stimulating and interesting.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
44%	53%			4%	96%
Please refer to point 10 above.					

12. Learning and the Curriculum - Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	
Yes	No
9%	91%

13. Learning and the Curriculum - My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.					
My child/ren does/do not have SEND	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know
63%	7%	2%			28%
Parents who identified their child does not have SEND, ticked the 'can't comment/don't know box, which is why this response is higher than expected.					

14. Learning and the Curriculum - Heather Garth supports my child's/ren's wider personal development.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Total % in Agreement
42%	47%			11%	89%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know ', we allocate time in the school week to ensure we spend time modelling and encouraging your child to develop as a whole person not just academically. Please check out the citizenship offer on the website. Again, talk to the teacher if you want to know more.					

15. Behaviour - There is a good standard of behaviour and action is taken when necessary.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
48%	41%			11%	89%
One of the things we really pride ourselves on at Heather Garth is the collective behaviour of your children. They are taught from Foundation Stage about respecting others, being responsible, what acceptable behaviour is and how to respond to this. They are taught about tolerating others and accepting everyone as an individual. Whenever our children go on trips we always get praised and people comment about the exceptional behaviour of our children - from the bus driver, staff at the place visited and the general public. You should all be proud of our children as they set a fantastic example to others and are a credit to yourselves and the school.					

16. Behaviour - Heather Garth promotes and encourages positive behaviour.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
47%	49%			4%	96%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know, please refer to point 15.					

17. Behaviour - As a parent, I hear quickly about any behaviour concerns regarding my child/ren and I am kept informed about any actions and improvements in their behaviour.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
29%	36%	7%		29%	65%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know, please rest assured there are no behaviour concerns linked to your child that you needed to be informed about or the class teacher would have spoken to you. However, if you have any concerns, please contact the school ASAP and we will discuss these with you.					

18. Behaviour - The school deals with bullying issues effectively. This includes cyber, racist and homophobic bullying.						
My child has never been bullied	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % positive response
38%	18%	18%	2%		25%	73%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know, we devote time to teaching about acceptable and unacceptable behaviours and what to do if there are any signs of bullying. Children are taught about respecting others and accepting each other as individuals through Personal, Social and Health Education. If we are made aware of any incidents we spend time investigating these allegations and notify parents of the outcomes. Please rest assured bullying is not tolerated in any form.						

19. Communication - School communicates effectively with parents.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
45%	48%	7%			93%
We work very hard on getting communication right. We will continue to keep you updated by emails and we update the website with all current letters and dates. COVID-19 has stopped some of the face to face chances but we have a member of staff (Mrs Bennett or Mrs Quinn) out every morning /evening if you wish to ask about something or clarify information. If you are not getting emails, please contact school to check we have the correct email address. Please contact school if you have any more suggestions on how we could develop this further.					

20. Communication - The blog, school website, emails and texts, monthly newsletters and flyers provide me with clear information regarding not only what has happened in school but also about future events.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
58%	36%	5%			95%
Please refer to point 19 above.					

21. Communication - I find it easy to approach the staff in school with questions or problems to do with my child/ren.					
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
56%	35%	5%		4%	91%
Mrs Bennett, our Family Engagement Officer, is on the path daily if you have any problems you need addressing. If she cannot answer the question /sort out the issue she will always pass it on the relevant person and then get back to you, if necessary. We are all here to help, please talk to us.					

22. Communication - Teachers and the school are good at letting me know about my child's/children's progress and make me aware of what my child/ren will learn during the year.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
44%	41%	6%		9%	85%
If you look on the school website / class page you will be able to find out what your child will be learning throughout the year. We recognise that we need to get better at updating the blog and have discussed this as a staff, please bear with us! We hold a parent consultation evening once a term (3 per year) to talk to you about your child's progress and developing and targets to improve. If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the class teacher.					

23. Communication - The school responds well to any concerns I raise.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I have not had to raise any concerns	Total % positive response
37%	41%	4%		19%	96%
We are sorry you feel that we do not respond well to concerns you have. We always try to address any concerns and hopefully draw them to a conclusion. Sometimes you may not agree, but we do try our best to solve them the most effective way for everyone. We want everyone to feel that we listen value your opinions.					

24. Parental Engagement - I find the Home School Planners help me support my child's/ren's learning.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
33%	56%	4%		7%	89%
If your response was 'can't comment/don't know', the planners are designed to help you support your child with: reading strategies, terminology, handwriting, year group word lists etc (yellow pages). Blue pages hold lots of mathematical information e.g. vocabulary, calculation strategies, timetables and other mathematical facts. The white pages at the front also offer lots of information with regards school life.					

25. Parental Engagement -I find the website / blog helpful in informing me about my child/ren's learning throughout the year.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
29%	55%	7%	2%	7%	84%
Please refer to point 22.					

26. Parental Engagement - I attended parents evening / received a phone call and found the information received helpful to support my child and their learning.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
48%	43%	6%		4%	90%
We hold 3 parents evening a year, the next one is planned for March and will be face to face appointments. Hopefully, this will be easier to share information as it allows any paper copies to be distributed straight to yourselves.					

27. Home learning - My child/ren receive the correct amount of work to complete at home.					
Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know	Total % in Agreement
33%	52%	13%		2%	85%
<p>This is something not everyone will agree with. When planning homework we try to put a selection of learning, linked to topics, for you to be able to choose around your weekly schedule. We ask that children read every day, it doesn't have to be a whole book just a few pages.</p> <p><i>Reading is essential to just about everything in life. It is important to start at a young age and teach your child the value of reading so they will grow to practice it often and value their ability to do so. While reading is obviously important to be able to understand the words on the page, it is also the foundation of your ability to learn and ultimately, your ability to function properly in an ever-changing society.</i></p>					

28. I would recommend this school to another parent.	
Yes	No
96%	4%
<p>If you ticked the box 'no' please contact us to discuss this further. We do not wish any parent or child to be unhappy with our school and what we provide. Your child has been/can be with us for potentially 8 years and it is a long time for your family to spend with our school if you are not happy.</p>	

Lockdown Learning

These questions are linked to learning and support during Lockdown and sent to parents/carers with children in years 1 to 6.

Pastoral and Wellbeing - During lockdown, I/we felt supported by the staff at school				
Strongly agree	Agree	i/we didn't require any support from school	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know
43%	40%	6%	2%	2%

Learning and the Curriculum - During lockdown, my child/ren and I felt supported by the teachers and learning support assistants around the work set by the feedback/support given.					
My child attended school during lockdown	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know
25%	32%	36%	5%	2%	2%

Learning and the Curriculum - During lockdown, the school responded promptly to help my child/ren with their work if they were struggling.					
My child attended school during lockdown	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Can't Comment/ Don't Know
28%	13%	39%	2%		9%



What are we doing well?

Thank you for taking the time to recognise the positive things we do. There are some lovely comments and we really appreciate them. If you have more than one child in years 1 to 6 we have put the comment under the eldest's year group.

Foundation Stage 1

- Access to school spider to see my children doing well in different activities. Look after my children well. Bring forward any issues that we need to know about.
- My child is coming on really well and has come far with her social skills since starting FS1. I feel that her teachers have helped bring her out of her shell and help her feel comfortable in school.
- You encourage kids that it's a nice place to come when they get scared to come in. When they are scared or upset you comfort them to let them know its ok.
- Staff are amazing especially Mrs Salt. You all do an amazing job.
- My child has started his education during Covid restrictions, so I have never been inside the school or his classroom but the welcome from his class teachers and Mrs Bennett has laid any anxiety I had to rest. I understand and appreciate the extra work and thought that has been put into welcoming new students and creating an atmosphere that is open and friendly so thank you. Also, the learning books are a really useful tool, it enables me to talk to my child about what he is doing in school and tailor any activities we may do at home.
- You have made my son more confident.
- My child has only been at the school since late October and within a matter of weeks his additional needs were picked up on. We actually weren't aware he had any before school. His teachers and support staff are very easy to talk to about this. They have helped implement things at home and provided additional support with the SEN co-ordinator to help settle my son in advance of FS2. I am

overwhelmed by the standard of care and educational support we have received in such a short period of time. Thank you!

- Since my child started here in January she has grown and really come out of her shell, learnt new songs, numbers etc. You can really see a difference from where she was before! All her teachers are fab and so welcoming.
- I feel the school is welcoming, always a member of staff on both arrival and departure of the school day. All members of staff are warm, approachable and friendly. I think especially when sending your children at such a young age it's so important to know they are happy and nurtured at school, whilst encouraging children to become more independent. I could not recommend the school and staff enough. Both my daughter and the rest of her family love the school.
- Welcoming environment on child's arrival from TA's and staff. Feels safe and well organised when collecting children. My child on collection always has a smile on her face. My child is encouraged to participate in learning activities that match her academic ability.

Foundation Stage 2

- Access to school spider to see my children doing well in different activities. Look after my children well. Bring forward any issues that we need to know about.
- My child seems to be happy and well looked after at school and also feels safe. I feel my child's progress is coming on brilliant due to amazing staff.
- My child likes to go to school. That to me says everything. She is always explaining how much fun she has had at school and loves her teacher and supporting staff. They all seem lovely and welcoming. I never have any issues so from my experience I can only say positive things about Heather Garth and all of those that work there.
- As a mother I feel safe sending my child and her siblings to Heather Garth. I feel that it's a positive environment for children.
- I am so happy with the way my child is learning and enjoying school. Keep doing what you are doing! I know my child is safe while at school and I know that she's learning while having fun.
- All the staff are amazing and doing such a great job! My child was really shy to start with and they have helped her grow in confidence. A credit to the school.
- Quick to act if a child needs extra support.
- Teachers are brilliant and my daughter loves them, she loves school. I think it's helped her confidence so much and she is learning so many new things.
- Heather Garth is an amazing school. My child loves it and all his teachers. Every member of staff I deal with are helpful and supportive. It is also nice to see Mrs Winnard in a morning saying hello to the parents and kids.

Comments not able to allocate to a group

- Always happy to see me. Children are welcoming.
- Keeping me informed of my child's development and behaviour.
- My child always likes sharing her different learning methods at home and shows extreme confidence and pride in doing so. This is a reflection on all the teaching staff and shows they are doing a fantastic job. My child comes home from school every day happy.



Year 1

- My child's confidence and abilities have really improved over the last 12 months. Generally, all good!
- Looking after every kid's needs, offers a lot of help if needed. Push them when they can do more. Help them improve independence. Teachers very helpful and supportive.
- Varied curriculum which my son finds very interesting. We use his planner diary at home to record reading and recap graphemes. It is very helpful. My son feels like a valued member of the class and he enjoys attending school. I enjoy using the school blog to keep up to date with events that have happened in school.
- You help with my child behaviour and let me know how is doing. You make me as a parent feel comfortable to talk to you and if I have a problem I know we can speak to the school and it will be sorted.
- Encouraging children to be independent when going into class. Making school fun when having non-uniform/dress up days.

Year 2

- Regular homework set with a variety of requirements. Good communication.
- My daughter loves school. She feels valued. She loves the school meals. I'm very happy how her learning is continuing at school.
- Everything is done very well. My child studied at school and is very happy. She enjoys playing with her classmates and is interested in participate different outdoor activities which is arranged by school.
- Teachers are great and a credit to the school. Very open communication and work with you to help drive great behaviours and progress.
- Parent engagement is good. Communication is good and any concerns/queries are dealt with swiftly and effectively. Ability to personalise learning around each individual child. My child wanted to separate from other children to aid his learning and this was accommodated.
- We think Heather Garth is a lovely school and our son loves being there and loves learning. The care, support and safety put in place due to Covid 19 I think was very good and have remained good

giving us the confidence when we needed it. Also supported us with schooling when in lockdown as working parents.

Year 3

- The whole ethos of the school is something I feel is such a positive. My daughter (and son previously) loves the school. There's a really supportive, welcoming feeling alongside the high standards, challenge and expectations.
- Supporting my daughter in what has become a challenging year with her homelife.
- I feel very welcome at the school and very comfortable approaching the staff. I believe there is a wide range of lessons available to my child.

Year 4

- My daughter has always been happy in school and enjoys it.
- Communication and try to accommodate the needs of my child. I've never had any issues with this school and my child is happy being there.
- My child loves school, he has never said that he has worries or concerns. He is safe at school. He is treated equally.

Year 5

- Providing great opportunities for our children. Teachers who engage with children well and encourage them to be their best.
- Helping my daughter to reach her full potential academically by keeping her on track with her work.
- There is a broad engaging curriculum. Information is readily available on multiple platforms.
- I feel my child is well supported not only with her education but her mental well-being too and the school as a whole are supportive with any issues we might have outside of the classroom.
- Great communication, particularly from Mrs Lancaster and Mrs Quinn. Good standards of expectation. Good behaviour management. Good understanding of individual needs
- The band system encourages my children with reading/homework. Gives them a push in the right direction when they need it. Mr Hassan is a massive hit in our house! Break time with the music player!
- My child is very engaged with the curriculum and enjoys telling me about everything he is learning with great enthusiasm. Communication through emails/messages/letters/blogs is excellent. All members of staff that I have spoken to, including school reception, have been supportive and helpful. The band system helps my son see that his positive behaviour has been recognised. He is very happy at school, and he feels safe. He is able to talk about things he is making progress in, and he is encouraged at school to reach his full potential.
- Being supportive to my son.
- My daughter loves school especially her teacher. I don't see any one thing that is done better than anything else. She spends the evening telling us about what she's enjoyed about school that day. I can't imagine anything that needs to be done that would improve her time at Heather Garth.

Year 6

- Learning aspects of school, I have no problem with apart from the children having to miss playtime to read that should be done in lessons. All the homework they receive is really good and the help they receive is really good.
- Support both children well, both enjoy school.
- Both my children are happy to attend school and generally enjoy learning. Staff are always pleased to see them. They have made good progress in their learning and have received support when needed. As a parent I know that my children are safe. Cared for and made to feel welcome.
- Noticing any issues and resolving them. Pick up on extra help needed and support children quickly.
- I always get emails and newsletters. I am kept informed and up to date. For the most part my daughter is happy in school.

Comments not able to allocate to a year group

- Two words – Mrs Bennett is fantastic and is so helpful and friendly every morning.
- Keeping me informed of my child's development.
- You're doing everything well.



What could we do to improve?

We will try to answer these as honestly as possible but sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances/confidentiality, this will not be possible. Some of these issues you have raised have been due to COVID and the restrictions we have in place, but as restrictions relax we have already started to address/make plans to bring back face to face events and family events. We hope you will be able to join us.

If you wish to discuss any of these points further please contact us, a member of staff is out every morning / evening (usually Mrs Bennett or Mrs Quinn) they will take a message and pass it onto the correct member of staff to contact you. If you do not see a member of staff, please contact the office and they will pass on the message.

Unfortunately, the class teacher will not always be able to have a conversation with you in a morning or evening as they have children in the classroom, but please ask them to give you a telephone call or if you can wait till all children have been collected, at the end of the day, they may have time to discuss with you then. However, they do have meetings to attend /after school clubs to run, so this is not always possible straight away.

They are not ignoring you, honest!

If you have more than one child in years 1 to 6 we have put the comment under the eldest's year group.

Comment from Parent / Carer	Our Response
Foundation Stage 1	
Queue in afternoon when picking kids up.	We addressed this on the day it was brought to our attention, so we hope this has improved. However, please remember that the safety of the children is our priority, so please bear with us if it's a little slow while we make sure the children are released to the correct grown up.
Days out.	When the children start in September, our priority is settling them in and developing independence. As the year progresses, plans are made to extend their environment wider than the Foundation Stage area. We are very fortunate to have lovely grounds, with our own forest area which we take advantage of as the weather improves and we extend experiences within the unit e.g. visitors. There are plans for a trip out in the Summer term, but planning a trip for 39 children, aged 3, is no mean feat and a few sleepless nights are had by all staff!
(After Covid) more parent involvement in class shows/concerts etc. However, the Christmas concert was amazing considering the circumstance.	Thank you for those kind words. We really thought about how we could keep everyone safe, but to try and celebrate Christmas this year with our loved ones. We have a coffee afternoon planned (16 th March) for all FS parents to meet some of the team, talk about the provision in the unit and your children's learning. It will provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. We recognise that due to COVID, face to face meetings are something we have all missed and our next parent consultation is planned for 30 th March. We also have plans for the Summer term for you to join us in our parent sessions. Our coffee morning which you can come and join Mrs Bennett in the Parent Engagement Building is also restarting after the Easter break.
Really struggle to use the 'Spider' app maybe a different app for learning at home.	We are really sorry to hear that you are having problems. Do you want to raise this with the FS staff and they may be able to support you? You can also access the blog through the website https://www.heathergarth.org/ you then select the correct blog from the header on the turquoise band at the top of the page. Hope this helps.
Foundation Stage 2	
I'd personally like to know more on know my child is doing.	Please check out the blog or the class page (the yellow box on the home page will take you to the correct class) on the website. Here you will find information on the topics they study. This is child-led and therefore activities and learning will change throughout the term. Don't forget to check out their learning log (yellow book) that they bring home every half term. You can also access the blog which showcases some of their learning. Now COVID restrictions are being relaxed we are now planning to hold our parent engagement sessions again starting in the summer term and don't forget our coffee afternoon. We also have a parent consultation coming up in March, but in the meantime please ask a member of staff for an update.
More school meal options.	Unfortunately, at the moment, this is out of our control. However, this is a temporary measure and the second-choice hot dinner will be back on the menu as soon as we can. We do offer a main meal or a jacket potato option at the moment.
Communication	We would love to talk to you as we are not sure which area/s of communication you would like us to develop. Some of the above responses may have answered this for you but if not please get in

	touch with your suggestions/ideas. We are always looking at ways to improve communication with stakeholders.
We understand that there are a lot of children to look after but our daughter often comes home with scrapes/bruises and complains of individual children hurting her. It is always the same names that are mentioned. The teachers are brilliant when it is brought to their attention, but this is often after the event has passed and nothing can be done. I understand they are young ages but would like more action to be taken so my daughter feels better/safer.	We are sorry to hear this and rest assured all incidents are dealt with. Please encourage your child to tell a member of staff straight away, if this happens, then it can be addressed immediately. Staff work really hard to develop positive relationships focussing on friendships, turn taking, respecting others and personal space. Mrs LeMasurier, our learning mentor, also spends time in the unit working with small groups to reinforce positive behaviour and boundaries. Please make an appointment to talk to a member of staff about any worries you have, as we want all children to feel safe at school.
Comments not able to allocate to a group	
Missing personal items.	We are really sorry to hear this however this is hard to comment on as we do not know what items are being referred to. If it is clothing can we remind everyone to put their names in. Items are easier to locate with a name on especially when you have 59 jumpers a day. Sometimes children do go home in the wrong jumpers but they are usually returned the next day, when the grown-ups realise. We do not encourage children to bring any personal items into the unit, as children want to play with everything and we do not want it to get lost or damaged. Please talk to a member of staff and they will be able to help
<p>Make sure my child comes out of school with her shoes on the correct feet. Make sure my child is supported at the toilet.</p> <p>Make sure the vegetarian option is made available.</p> <p>Send more paper copies out than emails.</p>	<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development is a huge part of the Foundation Stage Programme and we work tirelessly through adult modelling, support and guidance to teach them how to manage their personal needs independently. Staff do support children in putting on their clothing but occasionally when getting children ready for home time they may miss a child, and we apologise for this. They also support any child who needs help when they go to the toilet but they will only guide and support children on how to clean themselves, unless there is a medical issue/need. If we continue to work on developing independence together hopefully this will not be a worry for long.</p> <p>Please see the above comment re vegetarian option.</p> <p>Sending out emails is something we have chosen to do as a school. This was decided due to a few factors, 2 being: We are an Eco-school and the Eco council have addressed the excessive use of paper when sending out letters and requested we email them. This has also been supported by parents, in the past, who raised the issue of sending out too many paper copies. Therefore, we only send out paper copies if there is a slip to fill in and return. If you are not receiving your emails, please contact the office to ensure we have the correct email address. All letters / information is uploaded onto the website https://www.heathergarth.org/page/key-information/59330 under key information. Please contact the office if you wish to discuss this further.</p>

Other Comments	
I have never had any issues so for me just continue as you are. Thank you	Thank you for your support!
Nothing, my child loves coming to school	That's good to hear, that is what we want for all our children.
Nothing! I honestly am very happy with her school life	Thank you!
Cannot think of anything. All teachers have been fab!	Thank you. All staff work extremely hard for every child in school and it will mean a lot to have this recognised.

Comment from Parent / Carer	Our Response
Year 1	
More information about subjects and topics being taught.	We recognise that this is something we need to continue to develop, especially keeping the blog updated. We are recommencing our parent sessions in the summer term and planning other family events which we hope you will be able to attend. Our next parent consultation is planned for the end of March, which again will help provide you with information on your child's learning. However, if you check on the website on the class page you will find an overview of study and if you look at the curriculum pages you will see the Knowledge and Progression document which breaks down the learning points. This covers all that your child will be learning for the year / school life. Please contact the school with any suggestions you may have to improve how we share this information, or if you want to talk to the class teacher about your child's progress.
A little improvement would be great in communications and transparency. Maybe more photos or updates on the blog. More activities.	See above
Maybe provide some after school clubs that are not sport related	These have already been planned to start next term and hopefully you have received a letter with club offers for Spring 2 and every half term up to the Summer.
To have more information on how my child's progress is in year 1 as I am not aware if he is hitting his targets.	We have another Parents Consultation booked in for the end of March (we schedule 3 per year, one a term). Hopefully this will answer the questions you may have, but you can always contact school and make an appointment to talk to the class teacher after school, if you have any concerns. Remember we are here to support you and your family.
Year 2	
I would appreciate more regular updates on progress and performance. More frequent parent evenings.	See above
Make the afterschool club longer for working parents.	Unfortunately, this is closed due to unforeseen circumstances and other factors at the moment. We are offering more Extra Curriculum Clubs, on an evening, up to the Summer, to try and help working parents. We can only apologise for this, but we have no other options available to us.
Could suggest storybooks with audio versions for parents buying/borrowing in libraries regularly?	We do have some books with audio versions but this is something we can look into further. We will use some of the money raised through fundraising to buy these. I will raise this with the school librarians and let them choose some to put into the library.

A huge loss to parental support is the afterschool clubs – running until 4pm wasn't useful for me and I needed further support until I got home from work. If this was run later until 5.30pm as it used to be, it would be a resource that was utilised by us more on a more regular basis. I do hope this can return in the future.	See above comment
I think it would be nice to have a little more interaction/communication with teachers, but this is only a thought.	We have already started planning to bring back parental engagement opportunities. We hope you see you there, we are really looking forward to these as they were a great way to get to know each other. Keep checking your emails and the school diary on the website for more information.
Year 3	
Not a criticism, the only thing I would say is regards if there are any issues e.g. behaviours that as a parent having info early is important. Sometimes I feel the info is a little delayed.	Thank you, we have taken this on board and hopefully this will be addressed earlier to keep you informed. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.
More communication with the year teacher, such as a closed facebook page for each year group so that not only do we maybe see more of that class but can talk directly with your child's teacher. As it sometimes takes too long scrolling through the blog to find her year. I know my daughter personally would love to do piano lesson in music or after school club as I know you only do guitar lessons. At the moment my daughter has her homework, spelling, reading book and a library book to do a week and as I work it is sometimes hard to get it all done especially 2 thick books and a book review.	<p>If you go onto the website you can access your child's year group blog or click on the link https://www.heathergarth.org/blogs/grade/7198 and this will take you straight to their blog page. If you wish to discuss anything with the class teacher please feel free to contact school or catch Mrs Bennett on the path and the class teacher will contact you at an arranged time.</p> <p>Barnsley Music Service come in to deliver the private music lessons (guitar lessons) we will contact them to enquire for you.</p> <p>We encourage all children to read every night, as reading is one of the most important skills people need to 'get on' in life but the library book is for you to share as and when. There is no pressure to read this every night, it a book that the children chose to read for pleasure. We understand the pressures of working parents, as most of us have been there and some still are. Remember there is a mixture of homework, some taking longer than others, to help on weeks where time is short. However, don't feel under pressure, talk to the teacher about this and you can work something out to unsure your child is supported in her learning.</p>
Year 4	
Snacks at playtimes, even with having toast and school dinner she's often saying she's still hungry as soon as she gets home.	Snacks at playtime had to be stopped due to COVID and the transferring of infection. However, things are being relaxed and this is something we can look into providing again.
I do not always receive generic emails regarding future events at school. I often rely on other parents telling me future dates for events.	Really sorry to here this, can you contact the school office to check we have the correct email address. In the meantime, all letters/information are uploaded onto the blog under key information. The newsletter and the calendar are accessible on the homepage, just click the star, this has all the up and coming dates.
Year 5	
Sometimes I feel my daughter is not heard and she feels like her	Really sorry you feel this way as all children are valued and listened to. Regular citizenship lessons are planned and delivered

opinion/feelings are not valid. This means she sometimes doesn't speak up when there has been some slight issues.	throughout school from Foundation Stage 2 to Year 6 to ensure all children feel a sense of belonging. All children at the beginning of the year produce a helping hand where they identify adults they can talk to, please remind her of this. This is really important to the ethos of our school and all staff feel strongly about this. Please contact school to talk about this further.
Improving adult behaviour at the school gates (swearing and smoking particularly at pick up time does not set a good example to the children.)	Thank you for raising this with us. We sent out a letter straight away reminding adults of their behaviour/code of conduct and we hope this has improved. We also put reminders in our newsletters. However, ultimately parents have to take personal responsibility for their behaviour and attitudes and think about others. We teach the children the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, but this needs to be modelled by all adults they come into contact with.
Out of school childcare!	Unfortunately, this is closed due to unforeseen circumstances and other factors at the moment. We are offering more Extra Curriculum Clubs, on an evening, up to the Summer, to try and help working parents. We can only apologise for this, but we have no other options available to us.
Can we reach out to pupils (school council) to help with the school menu, so they can put their ideas forward?	In the past, we have consulted with the children and do take this into consideration when setting the menu. However, due to circumstances out of our control we are having to offer a limited menu, however, it is things the children have chosen.
My daughter is somewhat fussy about food, she doesn't like mince or tomato sauce but loves cheese sauce which sadly is only on the vegetarian menu.	See comments above but please bear with us and we will hopefully get back to a full dinner offer as soon as possible.
Year 6	
More feedback to parents on how they are doing, areas they need to focus on and what they do well at/in.	We have 3 planned parent consultations a year, one per term. Our next parent consultation is planned for March however, if you wish to speak to the teacher before this, to discuss anything, please contact school and arrange a meeting with the class teacher.
More fun days for the children. Celebrate Halloween. I know school is about learning but you see the other schools in the area doing dress down days, PJ days, celebrating Halloween etc and nothing from Heather Garth. Really disappointed this year that they could not have a sibling photo as well.	<p>We find this hard to understand, as so far this year, we have held 3 non-uniform days (Autumn day, Christmas Jumper day, and Back to Front day). We have also held Odd Sock day to celebrate Anti Bullying week, and on Children in Need day children dressed in Pudsey colours. During the Christmas season, we wore Christmas jumpers on Christmas Dinner Day, and held a Christmas Party. We have also had a residential, visitors into school and trips.</p> <p>We have also got many events planned for the rest of the year e.g. Red Nose day, World Book Day, more non-uniform themed days and the Queens Jubilee celebrations to name a few.</p> <p>We have worked really hard, during COVID, to try to reduce the risk of infection and keep everyone as safe as possible, by forming 'bubbles' and not mixing within school. Bringing others/siblings into the school building would have put many children and staff at risk.</p> <p>COVID has meant there has been many decisions to make/ risks to be assessed - decisions not so popular with some, but thanked by many others. We would never have pleased everyone! However, these decisions were always made with everyone's safety at the forefront of our minds - not just to be awkward or cause issues for others. We were living and still are in unprecedented times facing</p>

	things we have never faced before and we hope never to be faced again.
I think school could review the amount of activities which are accompanied by a fee and if all parents can afford this. Are all children able to participate given tight budgets parents might have?	This is something we have discussed recently and are looking at ways we can support this.
The band system – six years in and I still don't understand how it works! I also think that, particularly for the younger children, it can be quite tricky to understand. Six weeks to receive a reward is a long time for a six-year old.	Our responsible learner expectations run throughout school. This was introduced to ensure all children take responsibility for their learning and behaviour and recognise that they run in conjunction with one another. We want all children to have the chance to or gold and this system allows children to develop at their own pace and never loss the opportunity to achieve gold. To do this children have to demonstrate that they meet the criteria to move up through the responsible learner stages. Teachers spend time taking about the expectations and children understand what they need to do to move to each stage. Moving through the stages are done at intervals to allow children to work towards the expectations. The expectations are in the planners, if you are not sure what they are. Alongside this, to ensure all children succeed, all classes have their own reward systems (daily/weekly) for shorter targets / achievements and we celebrate weekly whole school achievements during our wellbeing time. We believe in providing many opportunities for children to recognise the feeling of success and achievement.
Communication	We would love to talk to you as we are not sure which area/s of communication you would like us to develop. Some of the above responses may have answered this for you but if not please get in touch with your suggestions/ideas. We are always looking at ways to improve communication with stakeholders.
Personal individual communication following a discussion at parents evening.....	Contact has been made to discuss the actions taken with this family.
Comments not able to allocate to a group	
Send more paper letters and information rather than emails. Make sure vegetarian on lunch menu is available.	See comments above
Price on uniform.	Unfortunately, we do not set the uniform prices. However, we do not take a commission either, which can be done. The price you pay is the price the supplier charge. We have shopped around to look at costs but unfortunately there are no cheaper, quality suppliers.
Other Comments	
Keep up the good work!	Thank you!
No further comments as the school seems to improve where it is needed	Thank you. We do try to keep on top of things or take things on board when it is brought to our attention. However, we are only human and sometimes things get missed, so please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.
I would prefer the chance to speak to teachers face to face easier. The door is opened and they go straight back into class	We agree that face to face is a lot easier at times. We recognise your frustrations at drop off and collection times however, the adults have children in the class that they are responsible for and therefore need to ensure they are safe. This is why there is always a member of staff on the path, pass on a message and they will get the teacher

with little or no acknowledgement.

to contact you and either talk to you on the phone or arrange a meeting. If it's an evening, and you have time, wait until all children have been collected they may have time to discuss with you then. However, they do have meetings to attend /after school clubs to run, so this is not always possible straight away. They are not ignoring you, honest!

