

Stanbridge Lower School

Newsletter No 1

4th September 09

Dear Parents/Guardian

Welcome back to the start of another school year. I hope you also had a little time to rest whilst enjoying your summer break with your children. I would like to welcome our new Reception and Pre-School children to school. I have spoken to the children and they are all excited about being here. I would also like to welcome two new members of staff - Mrs Sophocleous and Mrs King who will be leading our new Pre-School.

The teachers and I have met and set dates for all significant school events across the year and these are published below.

"Meet the Teacher" Sessions

Please note the dates below for these sessions. This is a good opportunity for parents and teachers to get to know one another and for teachers to pass on information about homework, library, PE requirements, trips etc. We look forward to seeing you.

Forthcoming Events

Listed below are the key dates for various meetings, events and activities planned so far for the academic year 09/10. As other events and activities are planned the dates and details will be shared with you as soon as possible.

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|----------------------------|---|
| 7 th September | Pre-School starts |
| 14 th September | Mrs Bradley - Meet the Teacher, 3pm |
| 15 th September | Mrs Kateley/Hince - Meet the Teacher, 3pm |
| 15 th September | KS2 swimming lessons to start |
| 16 th September | Mrs Date/Patterson - Meet the Teacher, 3pm |
| 17 th September | Mrs Forbes/Mr Wilkins - Meet the Teacher, 3pm |
| 5 th October | National Book Week - further details to follow |
| 7 th October | Presentation to parents, staff and guests by the Multi Ethnic and Traveller Achievement Society about the History, Culture and Development of Traveller Communities across the years. |
| 9 th October | School Photographs - individuals |
| 19 th October | Parent Consultations: 3.30 - 5pm |
| 20 th October | Parent Consultations: 6pm - 9pm |
| 22 nd October | Harvest Festival, 2.30pm |
| 26 th October | Half Term |
| 2 nd November | INSET day |
| 8 th December | Christmas Production Performance for parents and children, 2pm |
| 9 th December | Christmas Production Performance for parents and guests, 2pm |
| 15 th December | Christmas Parties |
| To be confirmed | End of Term Service |
| 18 th December | Last Day of Term |
| 4 th January | INSET day |
| 12 th February | Celebration Assembly, 2pm |
| 15 th February | Half Term |
| 1 st March | Parent Consultations: 3.30 - 5pm |
| 2 nd March | Parent Consultations: 6pm - 9pm |
| 12 th March | Mother's Day Tea Party, 2pm |
| To be confirmed | End of Term Service |

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| 1 nd April | Last Day of Term |
| 19 April | INSET day |
| 24 th -26 th May | Grafham Residential Field Trip for Year 3 and 4 |
| 28 th May | Celebration Assembly, 9.15 am |
| 28 th May | Half Term |
| 22 nd June | Sports Day, 2pm |
| 7 th July | New class lists and school reports sent home |
| 9 th July | Open Afternoon and Art Exhibition, 2.30pm |
| 14 th July | Leaver's Assembly and Helper's Tea Party, 1.30pm |
| 18 th July | Year 4 Swimming Party |
| To be confirmed | End of Term Service |
| 21 st July | Last Day of Term |
| | |
| | |

Children with Long Hair

We would like to ask parents to tie children's long hair back each day. This helps the children to do their work better, as the hair is not continually falling into their work, reduces the risk of cross infection eg headlice and also stops hair unintentionally whipping round into the face of other children working. As always we appreciate your co-operation with this.

Holidays in Term Time

In light of our OFSTED report which highlighted the need to work with families who take their children out of school during term time on holidays, it seems the right time of year to remind parents that we actively discourage holidays to be taken in term time. Pupils may only be granted leave of absence from school to enable him/her to go away on holiday where:

- An application has been made in advance to the school by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides and
- The school considers that leave of absence should be granted due to the special circumstances relating to the application.

DfES guidance states that schools are not obliged to grant leave for holidays in term time and applications should be carefully considered on their merits taking into account the school's responsibility for ensuring continuity of learning. Holidays which are taken for the following reasons are not classed as special circumstances

- Availability of cheap holidays
- Availability of desired accommodation
- Poor weather experienced in school holiday periods
- Overlap with beginning or end of term.

We hope that the above raises your awareness about holidays in term time and you continue to work with us to ensure your child receives their maximum entitlement to education across the year.

Annual School Questionnaire

Attached to this newsletter are the results of the Annual School Questionnaire which was sent out in May. I very much appreciate the time that you have given to this exercise and appreciate your responses. We have been pleased with the very positive feedback received and where your responses have indicated an area for development these have formed part of our School Evaluation which happens at the end of each academic year. These points (highlighted in grey) have been included in our school development plan and will be acted on accordingly.

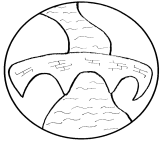
As with everything in life, I am sure you will agree that it is hard to please everyone all of the time, so if you think your issue hasn't been highlighted as a point for development, please come in and speak to me, and as always please continue to speak to either myself or a member of staff if you have any concerns or queries.

Stanbridge Pre-School

Our new Pre-School will be opening on 7th September. There are still places available across the week for new starters. Please speak to Mrs Sophocleous directly or Mrs Jones at the school office if you would like a place.

Yours sincerely

R J GODWIN



Stanbridge Lower School

ANNUAL SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE 2009 - Feedback to Parents

(All figures quoted are percentages. Where % don't add up to 100% indicates boxes have not been ticked by parents)

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Unable to Comment |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Achievements and Progress | | | | | |
| My child is learning and achieving well | 53 | 47 | | | |
| My child is making good progress | 53 | 47 | | | |
| Targets set for children are achievable and relevant | 40 | 47 | 7 | | 7 |
| I am kept informed of my child's progress and a achievements | 27 | 60 | 13 | | |
| Children are supported well if they need extra help | 27 | 53 | | | 20 |
| Children are encouraged to learn at their own pace | 47 | 47 | | | |
| Children who are more able are encouraged | 20 | 60 | 13 | | 7 |
| Children's achievements are celebrated | 53 | 40 | | | 7 |
| Foundation Stage/Reception Year | | | | | |
| Stanbridge provides a good start to a child's education | 53 | 40 | | | 7 |
| Facilities for this year group are good | 33 | 53 | | | 7 |
| My child achieves well | 33 | 53 | 7 | | 7 |
| My child is making good progress | 33 | 53 | 7 | | 7 |
| Behaviour at Stanbridge | | | | | |
| Behaviour in school is good | 20 | 67 | 7 | | 7 |
| Poor behaviour is dealt with promptly | 14 | 67 | 7 | | 14 |
| My child is not bullied or harassed at school | 20 | 53 | 27 | | |
| My child can talk to someone if feel they are being bullied | 14 | 47 | 20 | | 20 |
| I feel Stanbridge deals with bullying incidents well by encouraging children to report bullying | 7 | 67 | 13 | | 13 |
| About the Children | | | | | |
| My child enjoys school at Stanbridge | 47 | 53 | | | |
| My child does not enjoy school | | | 53 | 40 | |
| Stanbridge takes account of children's views | 7 | 73 | | | 13 |
| I feel that my child is safe and well cared for at school | 33 | 60 | 7 | | |
| My child feels safe in school | 33 | 67 | | | |
| Homework is set regularly | 27 | 60 | 7 | 7 | |
| Homework is appropriate for my child's age | 20 | 60 | 13 | 7 | |
| After school clubs are varied and accessible to all children | 7 | 60 | 13 | | 13 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| Stanbridge is good at helping children to develop social skills. | 20 | 73 | 7 | | |
| Children are encouraged to think and talk about their feelings | 13 | 73 | | | 13 |
| Children's ethnicity is celebrated, acknowledged and valued | 27 | 60 | | | 13 |
| My child's gifts and talents are celebrated and valued | 27 | 60 | 7 | | 7 |
| My child is encouraged to fulfill their potential | 27 | 60 | 7 | | 7 |
| I feel Stanbridge encourages my child to have healthy snacks, healthy lunches and helps children to lead healthy lifestyles | 27 | 67 | | | |
| The School Council takes an active part in school life | 13 | 53 | | | 33 |
| The Community | | | | | |
| The school seeks the views of parents/carers and takes account of their suggestions and concerns | 20 | 60 | 13 | | 7 |
| Stanbridge makes a positive contribution to the local community | 20 | 80 | | | |
| The local community are encouraged into school life. | 33 | 67 | | | |
| Parents are encouraged into school | 33 | 60 | 7 | | |
| Parents are actively encouraged to take part in their child's education | 27 | 73 | | | |
| Communication and Leadership | | | | | |
| The Head Teacher, Teachers and support staff are approachable | 47 | 53 | | | |
| The Head Teacher, Teachers and other adults in school are ready to deal with any concerns or problems | 47 | 53 | | | |
| Newsletters inform me about school life, dates, meetings and relevant information | 40 | 53 | 7 | | |
| Communication between home and school is timely, efficient and informative | 27 | 53 | 13 | 7 | |
| The school is well led and managed | 33 | 67 | | | |
| Governors are involved in steering the school forward | 13 | 73 | | | |
| The PTFA take an active role in school life | 27 | 60 | 7 | | 7 |
| New Initiatives | | | | | |
| The new start time at the beginning of the day is working well | 80 | 7 | | | 13 |
| The school website is user friendly | 20 | 53 | 20 | | 7 |
| The school website is up to date and holds relevant information | 20 | 40 | 13 | | 27 |
| Take Away tasks are encouraging family learning at home | 20 | 40 | 27 | 7 | 7 |
| My child enjoys the take away homework tasks | 13 | 60 | 27 | | |

Any further comments (All comments have been taken from the questionnaire. All names of children, staff and parents have been removed)

"I appreciate all the school does to help and support my children"

"Our son has friends across all school years. Each time we have been in school it has been very apparent that the older children actively care for and look after the young ones, which is lovely to see. Events like the Mother's Day Tea Party and Maths Day have been fantastic - brilliantly thought out and extremely enjoyable. We feel luck and proud to be part of Stanbridge Lower School"

"My children are very happy at Stanbridge. I feel they are receiving a great education from some brilliant teachers. There have been occasional, mainly playground incidents, but I am happy that they are being dealt with appropriately by teachers"

that I trust"

"Good to see a website"

"Homework is sporadic, not regular. No Feedback. More issues re poor behaviour recently".

"We have made the best choice moving our child to Stanbridge. The staff are absolutely lovely. They always have time for us if we need to see them".

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. We appreciate your opinions and comments.