



Stanbridge Lower School

Newsletter No 4

20th October 09

Clubs At Stanbridge

We are hoping to set up some extra clubs for children to take part in either at lunchtime or after school. In the past we have had chess club, Italian, Russian and French, Hockey, Art, Pottery, story and Open the Book classes being offered by parents and people in the local community. If you are interested in sharing your skills with a group of children and would like to run a club, please speak to Miss Godwin.

Pre School - Help wanted

I am pleased to announce that Pre-School is going from strength to strength. It is offering children a rich, exciting and varied learning experience. We now have a growing waiting list for children who want to start Pre-School across next year and after Christmas we have more children joining us. With this in mind we want to recruit a volunteer to work in pre-school alongside the existing staff members. If you are interested in starting a career in child care or teaching and would like to gain experience, or if you are a parent/member of the local community who has some spare time to give, then please consider joining us. All help will be gratefully received. Please speak to Miss Godwin or Mrs Sophocleous directly, who will be able to give you further details about being CRB cleared and about volunteering in Pre-School.

OFSTED

As you are all aware OFSTED carried out a two day inspection at Stanbridge last week. We were very pleased with the results and the inspection supported the judgements that both the Governors and I had made about Stanbridge. We are awaiting the final report and this will be made available for you to read very soon.

Parent Governor Election

The Governing Body currently has one parent governor vacancy, so we are therefore asking for nominations or volunteers for this position by Friday 6th November. In the event of more than one name being put forward, elections will take place in the following week. As we have new parents who have children who have just entered Stanbridge I thought it would be helpful to provide you with some information about the role of Parent Governor.

Who can be a Parent Governor?

A parent governor must be the parent of a pupil on the school roll at the time of the election, you would not need to stand down if your child leaves school during your four year period of office.

What is involved?

As a member of the *Governing Body* you are to"carry out your functions with the aim of taking a largely strategic role in the running of the school", and"The *Governing Body* should act as a *Critical friend* to the *Head Teacher* by providing advice and support". In a simplistic sense the *Governing Body* supports the school in its mission to provide every child in the school with the best possible start in their education and life.

What sort of commitment does this mean?

All governors are required to attend a meeting of the full governing body and these usually occur once a term. There are committees of small groups of individual governors, including *Premises, Curriculum and Monitoring, Finance, Performance Management and Staffing*, each of these meet between two and three times in an academic year. Meetings vary in terms of when they are scheduled: a consensus is taken to decide what time in a day is best for the members on that committee to meet.

Will I get any training?

All governors are immediately issued with a green file called "A Guide to the Law for School Governors" and our own *Governor's Manual* which informs you about *Stanbridge Lower School*. You will have access to a 24hr helpline, but also the *Local Authority* run a range of courses each year on such topics as a general introduction for new governors, to other more specific aspects such as the details of school budget setting and *Performance Management*.

If you are interested please apply to become a parent governor by completing the *Nomination Form* overleaf and returning it to the school office by Friday 6th November. If you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me, or approach one of the school's current governors. We would be only too pleased to help.

Reminder

22nd October, 2.30pm: *Harvest Festival* in school. Please send in tins, jars, packets asap.

Yours sincerely

R J GODWIN
Head Teacher

Nomination/Volunteer as Parent Governor
Reply Slip

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

Child's Name:

Reasons for Applying: