



Stanbridge Lower School

Newsletter No 5

5th November 08

Dear Parents/Guardian

Spelling Homework

Spelling homework is changing for the following groups: Wilson, Dahl and Nimmo. Over the next couple of weeks, a more structured and progressive approach to spelling homework is being introduced and phased in by teachers. We are aiming for children to learn spelling patterns, but also to use and apply them. The new system builds on the children's growing understanding of segmenting and blending words for reading, spelling and writing.

Children will be given groups of words to learn, which are age appropriate and which follow spelling patterns. These words should be learnt using the usual look, cover, write, check method. In addition, the words will also be accompanied by an activity sheet which will support the children in understanding and using the words in context. Activity spaces will be provided on a sheet for children to complete any drawing, sentence making or writing that they are asked to do. Not every activity space will need to be used each week. Each activity sheet will indicate what is required of the children.

Children in Alhberg group will be learning the sounds and names of letters and progressing on to key words as before. This is an essential part of their learning and will give them the knowledge they need about letters, words and how they are initially blended and segmented to help with reading and spelling/writing.

All homework will now be sent home in, and should be kept in the provided homework folder. Teachers will send homework home on their normal days as discussed at the Meet the Teacher sessions held at the beginning of the term. As with all spelling homework, the children will require support with learning their words and completing their activities, and we appreciate your support with this process. The more interaction, the greater the learning experience.

Parent Governor Election

Last term Parent Governor Elections were held and we are pleased to announce that Mr Symonds has joined the Governing Body. I am sure you will join me in wishing him well in his new role.

The Governing Body still currently has one parent governor vacancy, so we are therefore asking for nominations or volunteers by Friday 28th 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 Headteacher 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" 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 28th 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.

Yours sincerely

R J WATERS
Head Teacher

Nomination/Volunteer as Parent Governor
Reply Slip

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

Child's Name:

Reasons for Applying: