

School Change Team Newsletter

June 09 Issue 1



Welcome to the first **School Change Team** Newsletter. We wanted to share with you what has been happening as a result of the School Change Team (SCT) initiative this year. The SCT is made up of staff, parents and governors and also has an input from pupils. It is essential that the school consults with parents as we carry out self-evaluation and it is a great way of opening discussion between staff, parents and governors about how to move our school forward.

With this in mind we sent every parent a questionnaire to complete in May. This was to evaluate the strengths of the school and allowed you the opportunity to tell us about any areas of success, development or concerns you have as a parent. A big **"Thank You"** to everyone who took the time to complete a questionnaire. It is likely that an annual questionnaire will be circulated in the future to evaluate whether the changes made have been successful.

The parent questionnaire highlighted the many strengths of Dore Primary School; the majority of parents felt their children enjoyed school, and that there is a strong staff team with high quality teaching.

The development needs you highlighted, matched many that the SCT and the school Senior Leadership Team also raised. Hopefully many of these are being addressed in the near future. As you can see from our **Quick Fix** column several have been changed already!

We Need You

There are other areas that would benefit from input from parents as volunteers, this is certainly achievable as demonstrated by the success of the Walking Buses and Growing Club, both of which go from strength to strength.

Volunteers to form a library team to supervise sessions in the library (especially in winter) would meet some of the aspirations highlighted by parents and staff in the questionnaire and at SCT meetings: if anyone can give any time (even just an hour or so a month) it would be very much appreciated.



We are also looking for more SCT members. If you would like to be part of the team next year then please email Mrs Hopkinson or Mr Winson;

headteacher@dore-pri.sheffield.sch.uk

There will be 3 meetings held on:
Monday 28th September '09,
Monday 16th November '09 &
Monday 28th June '10 at 7.15pm - 9pm.

This is **your** chance to influence change in **your** school.

Quick Fixes

- **Concern** - *Infants were eating their packed lunches in their classroom*
- **Solution** - *Infants now eat in the dining room with their friends who have hot meals*



- **Concern** - *No autumn child progress meeting*
- **Solution** - *a pupil progress evening will now also be held in the autumn term*



- **Concern** - *more information needed to help my child at home*
- **Solution** - *more parent information evenings to be held in the new academic year*
- **Concern** - *Transition from Reception to Y1 is a shock for children*
- **Solution** - *Mrs Farrell will take her reception children through to Y1 for first hand experience in Summer 2009.*
- **New Beginnings** - *each class will meet their new class teacher for 3 half day sessions before the summer holiday to ease transition to the next year*
- **New Beginnings** - *Parent information evenings to be held for new infant and junior starters*

Questionnaire Results - Current Strengths of the School

When asked about the strengths of the school you identified the following;

Any comment expressed by 10 or more parents has been included in this newsletter (number of responses in brackets)

Staff

- Strength of whole staff team and quality of teaching (63)

Environment

- Warm, caring, welcoming and safe ethos with strong morals and values teaching and citizenship (58)
- Children enjoy school and are happy and confident (28)
- School has a good reputation (16)

Curriculum

- Great balance of curricular and extra curricular activities (38)
- School offers good stimulation and challenge (17)
- Children with extra needs are well catered for (12)
- Education of whole child, social and emotional (11)

Communication

- Communication is good and parents are well informed (25)
- Reward systems are effective (16)
- Engagement and consultation with parents (13)

We are very lucky to have such beautiful grounds and this year we have the addition of climbing walls and outside classrooms.

Grounds are being tended to by pupils and parent volunteers as part of the growing club.



The Walking Bus goes from strength to strength thanks to the very generous help from parent volunteers.

The WOW initiative has also been a great success with many children now walking to school at least one day a week.



Questionnaire Results - Areas for Development

Communication

- A meeting with teachers about progress during the Autumn term (34)

Our Response - *This will now take place see quick fixes below*

Information

- More information to parents regarding childrens learning and how to help at home (15)

Our Response - *In the 2008/2009 school year we have held 16 parent information sessions. More parent information evenings planned for 2009/10.*

Behaviour

- Difficulties surrounding behaviour (12)

Our Response - *this is now being addressed see quick fixes below*

Environment

- School needs to be cleaner and better maintained (11)

Our Response - *we now have lots of new storage so equipment can be stored and cleaning is now easier. Essential maintenance will be carried out over the summer break.*

Curriculum

- Children need greater challenge and stimulation (10)

Our Response - *a new exciting themed curriculum will be introduced in the autumn term as well as a "work at home" concept which will be used to direct children to develop independent learning skills*

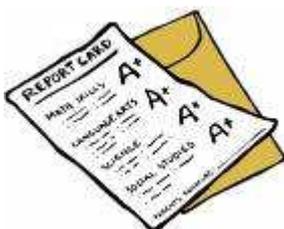
Areas of Development - More "Quick Fixes"

Communication

Some parents were confused or showed concern about the school awards system (merit awards, endeavor award, citizenship award etc.). Information to staff, children and parents about the merit schemes have hopefully increased understanding of how and why merits are awarded and ensured that the system is equitable and transparent.

Children's learning and progress

The school is now using the Sheffield Pupil Progress tracking system for every child in the school.



Mixing classes

The SCT were concerned that classes were not mixed again after the reception year. After full discussions with the SCT, Governors and staff it was decided to mix children at the end of Y1, Y3 and Y5

Behaviour

The school continues to embed consistent strategies for behaviour. There are clear and accurate records in place so any unacceptable behaviour is monitored and reported on. There are regular assemblies held which reinforce anti-bullying messages.

An annual anti-bullying week has been introduced.

A very successful set of values and mottos have been introduced into the school encouraging good citizenship skills.

Parents are now being contacted with regard to specific behaviour incidents.

Finally, you were asked to rank which statements you felt were most important in Dore Primary School

Your answers in order of rank value

	Total	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
My child is stimulated and challenged in school	87	38	43	6
My child enjoys being in school	80	59	18	3
Teachers let me know about my child's strengths and weaknesses	33	4	10	19
Teachers respond to poor behaviour effectively	27	1	7	27
Pupils are treated fairly in school	26	4	9	13
Meetings between parents and teachers are helpful	21	4	5	12
Pupils respect teachers in our school	16	1	6	9
Teachers respect pupils in our school	10	1	3	6
Pupils' achievements are celebrated by the school	9	1	6	2
The school offers a good balance of extra-curricular activities	8	1	1	6
The school has shown me how I can help my child at home	7	1	3	3
Our school has a good reputation in the community	7	1	0	6
As a parent I feel welcome in school	4	0	1	3
There is a wide range of visits that support pupils' learning	3	0	2	1
School buildings are kept clean and in good order	2	1	0	1

The School Change would like to **"Thank You"** for all of the positive comments and concerns you have raised during this school year. If you would like to discuss any of the changes that have taken place then please do not hesitate to speak to one of the SCT. We would like to wish you a very relaxing and sunny summer holiday and look forward to working with some of you in the new school year.

School Change Team 2009

Parents: Mark Barratt, Andy Stratton, Christopher Ridley, James Hope-Gill, Richard Wroth, Sarah Gowlett, Steve Thomas, Wendy Ridley

Staff : Sue Hopkinson, Abi Thorlby , Gavin Truelove, Jane Farrell, Matthew Winson, Marie Gleadhill, Sian Granville, Linda Addis

Governors: Andrea Lancaster, Andree Reed, Lisa Bradshaw, Pat Matthewman