

School Change Team Newsletter

July 2011 (Issue 3)



Welcome to the annual *School Change Team* (SCT) Newsletter. The SCT is now in its third year, and has become a well established forum comprising staff, parents and governors, and also seeks input from pupils. It meets three times a year and aims to evaluate the strengths and successes of the school, and also to put forward and review concerns, and areas for development.

The governing body and SCT recently distributed a parent questionnaire, this was similar to a questionnaire sent out two years ago. This exercise highlighted the many strengths of Dore Primary School, and reflected that our children enjoy school, with the majority of parents endorsing the view that school has a strong team which delivers high quality teaching. The results of this years questionnaire can be found on the last two pages of this newsletter. We have also compared the results to those from 2009.

This year the SCT highlighted many of the schools strengths. The development needs highlighted by parents again matched many identified by the SCT and the school Senior Leadership Team, and enabled the development of what has essentially become a 'programme for review' under a number of headings or 'domains'. As with all things, some issues can be dealt with quickly, whilst others take a little more time. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of what has been achieved so far, and to give an update on areas which are still 'works in progress'.

For the SCT to be effective, it needs to secure input and representation from new parent members. If anyone would like to join the team for September 2011 to 2012, please email Mrs Hopkinson or Mr Winson (headteacher@dore-pri.sheffield.sch.uk).

SCT Dates for next year (7.15 to 9.00pm):
October 3rd 2011; November 21st 2011 & June 21st 2012.



We Need You !

As well as SCT, there are a number of other fantastic ways for parents to become involved in school life and activities—see below !

- **Dore Parents Association**
- **The Growing Club**
- **Walking Bus**
- **Library Support Team**
- **Lunchtime Supervision Support Team**
- **Let's Get Cooking**
- **Celebrations of festivals in assemblies**
- **Healthy Tuck Shop**

The support of volunteers helps the school to meet some of the aspirations highlighted by parents (and staff) for many things raised through SCT meetings. If anyone can give any time (requirements vary for each initiative and can involve just an hour or so a month) please contact Mrs Hopkinson or Mr Winson — they will put you in touch with the right people
All support is welcome and very much appreciated.

- The SCT programme for review deals with issues under the following headings:
- **Keeping Healthy**
- **Keeping Safe**
- **Enjoy and Achieve**
- **Positive Contribution**
- **Economic Well-being**

Some Actions for—2010/2011

1. Keeping Healthy

- **Concern** - *School lunches.*
- **Solution** - *A school working party now meets regularly with the local authority & lunch providers. Members of SCT on a city panel to select new school lunch contractor.*
- *Lunch questionnaire developed with Dore Democrats and sent to all children in school.*

2. Keeping Safe

- **Concern** - *Road safety in school car park.*
- **Solution** - *school no parking policy reinforced to parents. Trial of locking school gates underway. Quotes received for electronic gates.*

3. Enjoy & Achieve

- **Concern** - *more information needed on targets for children.*
- **Solution** - *All children have their own targets for maths and literacy. Pupil progress meetings in November and March. School chat books sent home each term.*



Award systems in school

Each term we have great pleasure in presenting our Dore Primary School Awards for Citizenship. These awards were given to one child in each year group in honour of their positive, sensitive and helpful interaction with others in the individual sense, but also in the way that they involve themselves cooperatively and responsibly in the wider life of the school, helping to build a harmonious and caring ethos. These children clearly exhibit an understanding of our school Values and Mottos. The Good Citizenship Awards will be made at the end of each term. The recipients will be recorded in a roll of honour and this award, unlike the weekly Endeavour Awards can only be gained once during a child's time at the school.

School merit stamps



are used as a method for teachers to assure children when they are making clear progress towards some of their personal targets. It is a personalised approach which means that it would be very difficult to compare the occasions when a stamp is awarded or to compare numbers gained just at face value. For example a small child who has great difficulty in sitting still and focusing on the teacher in order to learn may well receive a merit stamp when they show they are beginning to focus in this way. Another child in the class may receive a stamp when they begin to volunteer answers regularly in a teaching session if they have been used to a more quiet approach letting others answer. A child may receive a merit stamp if they have been inspired to go home and research a topic and bring some valuable information in to support their learning. A merit may be given for an increase to 10 lines of writing if a child has had difficulties in getting their thoughts on paper and usually only manages 2. A merit may be given when a child has completed a full piece of work with clear thinking and good presentation. We talk in assemblies to try to clarify this with the children and the teachers will be very clear with individual children about why merits are awarded and what their personal targets and teacher expectations are.

The Endeavour Award is linked into one of our mottos; *I will listen, think and work hard to make the most of ALL my abilities so that I will reach my full potential.* The Endeavour Award is handed out in class each Friday. If your child receives this award it should be returned to class each Monday in good time for the next presentation. Children may receive this award more than once.

Home School Chat Book is a review about your child. This is intended to keep you in touch with how your child is responding to teaching and about their involvement and interaction in school this term. It is not intended as an academic progress report. These more regular mini-reviews replace the effort boxes on the end of school year report. Feedback from parents on the report slips last July tell us that our new style more personalised report was much welcomed by parents last summer.

Parental Concerns. We have a system of logging parental concerns.

We ask that in the first instance, issues or concerns are raised by parents with the class teacher if the issues are class based and if appropriate.

If this is not appropriate, you can approach the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher. Both operate an open door policy or appointments may be booked. They have a system of recording parental concerns which includes listening to the issue, saying how investigation will be carried out and reporting back to the concerned parent taking action if necessary. These concerns or complaints are then filed as a record.

If, after this process, parents still feel concern and they wish to make a complaint, then they can approach a governor. The governor will then complete a named complaints form and this will record the complaint with the name of the complainant and be logged and discussed with the school.

The governing body has been party to the discussion about concerns during the past year and agreed this policy at full Governing Body meeting in early November. The full policy can be accessed on the school website.

2011 Parent Questionnaire Results

The results of the parent questionnaire shows improvements pretty much across the board compared to the results in 2009. The question about school buildings and comments for improvement reflected one area that has already been highlighted and acted upon in school; toilet cleanliness and facilities, and outside steps and paths. The toilets have been deep cleaned, and a new team of property managers from Sheffield City Council are working with Gavin to ensure that outside maintenance is up to scratch.

102 Parent questionnaires were returned to school.

Positives (90% of parents or more answered "True or quite true"):

- My child enjoys being in school
- My child is stimulated and challenged in school
- Meetings between parents and teachers are helpful
- Our school has a good reputation in the community

Areas for development (Just over 10% of parents answered "Not very true or not at all true" to this question):

- Teachers let me know about my child's strengths and weaknesses
- As a parent I feel welcome in the school
- There are a wide range of visits that support pupils' learning
- School buildings are kept clean and in good order
- The school has shown me how I can help my child at home

Parent's positive Comments:

Safe school; Staff; Teaching; TASC; Merits and awards; Friendly and happy children; DPA; Value System; Visits; Creative curriculum

Parent's Comments For Improvement:

Toilets- paper and cleanliness, Dinners- more choice, Sports for boys-football, cost of activities and trips becoming difficult; structured feedback at parents evening; steps, paths and outdoor of buildings kept in order- See Stop Press below!

STOP PRESS

You said– The state of the junior toilets have been a concern, as have trip hazards and the state of the outside of the buildings and paths/steps

Solution - A new property management team are working with the school to improve the cleanliness of the toilets (deep cleaning has already occurred) and to ensure that any outside work is prioritised.

You said– The cost of residential and trips can be problematic

Solution - The school is setting up a system to spread the costs over the year, with regular payments possible. This will be explained further at the residential's evening next year

School Dress Code: The dress code for Dore Primary school has been updated, and can be found on the school website. Please have a look at this for next year.

Headteacher's Award: A new award is available from the Headteacher, this is for exceptional work or contribution to the school.

More results from the 2011 Parent Questionnaire

(2009 results in brackets for comparison).

Parents gave the following responses when asked to rank the importance of each statement

	Total	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
My child enjoys being in school	80 (80)	58 (59)	16 (18)	6 (3)
My child is stimulated and challenged in school	76 (87)	23 (38)	47 (43)	6 (6)
Teachers let me know about my child's strengths and weaknesses	35 (33)	1 (4)	12 (10)	22 (19)
Pupils are treated fairly in school	24 (26)	6 (4)	5 (9)	13 (13)
Teachers respond to poor behaviour effectively	20 (27)	1 (1)	4 (7)	15 (27)
Pupils respect teachers in our school	14 (16)	2 (1)	2 (6)	10 (9)
Pupils' achievements are celebrated by the school	13 (9)	2 (1)	5 (6)	6 (2)
Meetings between parents and teachers are helpful	7 (21)	2 (4)	1 (5)	4 (12)
The school has shown me how I can help my child at home	7 (7)	0 (1)	1 (3)	6 (3)
Teachers respect pupils in our school	4 (10)	1 (1)	2 (3)	1 (6)
The school offers a good balance of extra-curricular activities	3 (8)	1 (1)	0 (1)	2 (6)
As a parent I feel welcome in school	3 (4)	0 (0)	1 (1)	2 (3)
School buildings are kept clean and in good order	3 (2)	0 (1)	0 (0)	3 (1)
Our school has a good reputation in the community	2 (7)	0 (1)	1 (0)	1 (6)
There is a wide range of visits that support pupils' learning	0 (3)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (1)

SCHOOL CHANGE TEAM 2010/2011

Parents: Wendy Ridley, Julie Turner, Sarah Craig, Maria Holmes, Jo Smith, James Hope-Gill, Debbie Miller, Glenn Darley, Petrina Goldman, Shamim Hasan

Staff : Sue Hopkinson, Jane Farrell, Matthew Winson, Sian Granville, Pippa Tidy, Marie Gleadhill

Governors: Steve Thomas, Lisa Bradshaw, Mark Barratt

Last but not least, The School Change Team would like to say **“Thank You”** to everyone who has contributed their views, ideas and support. If you would like to discuss any of the changes that have taken place, raise concerns, or comment on what is working well in school, then please do not hesitate to speak to one of the SCT. Or you can post comments into the School Change Team suggestions box in the school reception area. Please post any suggestions into this for consideration by the SCT. Please supply your name so that we can clarify your suggestion if necessary and communicate what has been done as a result of your suggestion.

We would like to wish you a very relaxing summer holiday and look forward to working with some of you in the new school year.