

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR BEST

Our aims are to foster close communication among parents, pupils and the school to continue to raise standards and encourage parents to participate fully in the development of the school.



Dear Parents,

Thank you to all parents/carers who raised issues to be discussed at our last meeting dated Thursday 7 May. We had a very successful meeting and would like to share with you a summary of what was discussed.

The Parent Voice members brought to the meeting your views on changing the arrangements for **Christmas plays**.

You said;

- Stopping Christmas plays would prevent parents from seeing their children perform in productions. Some children excel in this area and need to be given the opportunity to showcase their talents. Christmas plays benefit our children and boost their confidence.
- The suggestion for smaller group productions has been made. This would allow each child to have more of an active role in each production.
- It is important that we still celebrate Christmas, even if the current arrangements are altered.
- It was also raised that evening performances allow working parents to see their children's productions.
- A suggestion for some traditional carols was made.

Taking on board your comments and the discussions from the Parent Voice meeting the Senior Leadership Team are intending to make the following arrangements for the academic year 2009-2010;

Celebration or Production	Size of group involved	What's going on?
Traditional Nativity	Reception	One afternoon and one evening performance in school involving all reception children.
Candle lit Traditional Christmas Carol Celebration	Whole School	<p>Family services in St Peter's Church. Dates: TBC Time of performances: TBC</p> <p>Each date will repeat the same programme. As a family you will reserve tickets to attend a family service with traditional Christmas carols, modern hymns, readings and poetry read by staff, children and parents.</p> <p>School will contact parents shortly regarding the uptake for this event so that they are able to make suitable arrangements.</p>

		We hope that this arrangement will be less stressful on our children who are extremely tired at this time of year. Sitting in families on 1 evening will also ease the demand on families who have children in many year groups.
Other Celebration	Year Group	<p>May Day Show - Year 1 Harvest - Year 2 Easter - Year 3 End of Year - Year 4</p> <p>Afternoon and evening performance</p> <p>Although this is still a large group of children, we still feel that it is important that the children perform as a year group at some point through the year.</p>
Collective Worship (assemblies) Family Service	Class	<p>1 class assembly a year based on class work - Friday collective worship in school.</p> <p>1 family service in church with a congregation of Parents/carers of class leading and other year group children.</p> <p>School day service (not evening)</p> <p>During these more intimate gatherings the children will have a greater opportunity to be involved.</p> <p>Dates will be set in advance.</p>

Once again thank you to those parents who passed on their thoughts.

New issues were raised by parents/carers and were discussed at the meeting. Action about a number of these issues is already in motion.

Incomplete fence at the bottom of the field

This is currently under review by the Governors' Premises Committee. Quotes are being collected to continue the fence in both directions to secure the bottom of the field.

Request for competitive sports day

In response to many comments made in previous years the decision has already been made to hold a competitive sports day. Mrs Taylor-Smith is currently reorganising sports day arrangements. More information will follow once the arrangements have been finalised.

Volunteering in school

We have produced a guide to the procedure to help out in school. Please note that any support is valuable to school whether it be on a regular basis or if you just have a spare afternoon once in a while. If you have offered support in the past and have not been contacted by school then please do contact Miss Colclough so that she can ensure the support is used.

Watching DVD's at the end of term

The current arrangement for end of term DVD afternoon is that it is only to take place at Christmas as part of Christmas celebrations. If you do have any views please contact a Parent Voice member.

New adults in the classroom

In discussion with Miss Colclough we have organised for class teachers to inform you through the Tune In On Tuesday when a new adult joins the class. Currently Miss Sarah Roden is completing her final teaching experience in Mrs Todd's class, Miss Sarah Mullis is completing additional work experience 1 morning a week in Miss Pinson's and Mrs Wright's class and Miss Lauren Sparkes is completing her 1st year placement as an additional adult supporting in Mrs Trevor's class.

Talking points that we would be glad of your views on:

▪ Homework

- consistency
- regularity
- communication
- Parent notes on strategies to use when supporting their children

We realise the need to streamline the current arrangements and would appreciate your input.

▪ Eating lunch in the hall

We are currently investigating the possibility of our children eating their lunch in the school hall rather than in their classrooms. Mrs O'Keeffe-Pullan is in discussion with our PTA regarding the purchase of SICO folding tables and chairs. The children would continue to eat with others of a similar age ie children in the same keystone. No significant changes will take place regarding time of lunch, the supervision and playtime.

A reminder of the methods of communicating your views;

- Feel free to approach us on the playground
- Email (contact list sent with Newsletter 1)
- Complete a proforma (held in the office) and place in the box in the entrance
- Letter to school marked for the attention of the Parent Voice
- Parent Voice Surgery - a member of Parent Voice will be available to listen to your views in school around the beginning and end of the school day

Dates for your diaries;

Surgery - The Den (old staffroom)	Friday 12 th June at 8.30am
Surgery - The Den	Thursday 18 th June at 2.30pm
Parent Voice Meeting	Thursday 25 th June

We look forward to hearing from you,

Parent Voice

Leading Parent Partnership Award

We would like to inform you of an award which our school and its community is aiming to achieve over the next 12 - 18 months through the support of the Parent Voice.

The Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) provides a framework to enable schools to strengthen their partnership with parents and carers. The LPPA is a developmental process which, through the involvement of parents, aims to enhance children's life chances as young people and adults.

Example key performance indicators that the school and its community will aim to achieve:

- Is the school a welcoming and friendly place for parents?
- Does the school promote lifelong learning for parents, at school and in the local community?
- Does the school provide enrichment opportunities for joint parent/child participation?
- Does the school provide a good induction for all new parents?
- Does the school provide relevant/user friendly guidance and information to help them support their child?
- Does the school produce parent/carer policies to establish effective home-school links to improve attainment, behaviour, punctuality, attendance, positive participation in school?
- Does the school provide good support for all parents of all pupils as they leave school?

So what are the benefits of gaining the award?

For Schools

- Improves home school communication
- Supports school self evaluation providing evidence for OFSTED
- Provides qualitative and quantitative evidence of improvement and success
- Engages parents in discussion about the life and development of the school

For Parents/Carers

- Ensures provision of high quality information about the life of the school and their children's learning and progress
- Leads to improved communication with school staff
- Facilitates more effective participation in their children's learning at home and school
- Builds confidence through participation in lifelong learning opportunities

For Children

- Increased confidence in the school context
- Provides enhanced support for learning at home and at school
- Promotes social and emotional well-being through improved parent school partnerships
- Supports improvement in behaviour, attitudes, attendance and achievement

St. Peter's CVEA First School

How can you help?



**Individual
Reading**

Art

**Handwriting
Groups**

Cooking

Gardening

**Library
Maintenance**

**Classroom
Support**

**Forest
School**

Displays

**Themed
Weeks**

Reprographics

Trips

**Professional
Expertise**

**University
Afternoon**

Our University Afternoons take place on a Friday 1pm-2pm. Throughout the year our children have the opportunity to choose an activity that they are interested in. These activities include; sport, music, poetry writing, making books, ICT, science investigations, craft and art. If you would like to support a teacher during University Afternoon then please contact Miss Colclough.

Of course, if you can not make a session then please leave a message at the school office. We do have a parent who runs a small group of poetry writers. If you would like to use your own skills and run a small group then again please contact Miss Colclough. If you were to run a small group then a weekly commitment would be needed.

St. Peter's CVEA First School

Parent/Career Volunteer Procedures



Please contact Miss Lucy Colclough, either by phoning the school office (01905 772138) or informing a Parent Voice member.

Miss Colclough will contact you regarding the support you would like to offer.

As you can imagine each year group is very enthusiastic about gaining extra adults in their team. We try to distribute volunteers equally. The year team leader will then contact you to discuss the support.

The school office will check the CRB central list.

If there is a current CRB then you may start the support immediately.

If there is no current CRB then the office will contact you to collect a form. Once the form is returned it will take approximately 4 weeks for clearance. Once the documentation is sent to school you may start the support immediately.

The office will provide you with a letter detailing information about supporting in school.

Each visit you will be asked to sign in and out for fire regulations. You will also be given a helper lanyard to wear. You will find evacuation procedures on the back of the lanyard.

The team leader/teacher to whom you are assigned will have organised the support for the visit.

We would advise parents;

- To work in a year group where your child is not placed.
- Not to worry if you can not make a planned session. Just phone the school office and leave a message.
- Any support is welcomed either on a regular basis or just when you have some spare time.