



ARK Dickens
Primary Academy

PARENTS



Notes from meeting held on 26th January 2016

Thank you to those parents who attended our first 'Parents Voice' meeting of 2016. Don't forget all parents are welcome to come along, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and discuss any aspects of school life or concerns they may have regarding Ark Dickens Primary Academy. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd February in school at 2.00pm

Parents were delighted to welcome the new Interim Headteacher, Joy Waelend, to their meeting and the group read through the notes from the previous meeting held in December. Parents were reminded it was their meeting with the focus being on the school hearing the 'Parents Voice.'

The following items were discussed:

Parental attendance at these meetings: The school would like to encourage more parents to attend these meetings and discussed whether changing the time of the meeting might make it easier for parents to attend. We do publicise the meeting dates on the school website, in the newsletter and also by sending a reminder text out to parents.

Joy Waelend confirmed she will be attending the meetings in future and commented that we have a strong team approach that are able to solve problems and make changes to improve our school. She would welcome any parents attending the 'Parents Voice' meetings as this is an opportunity to listen to parental views, comments and suggestions.

Parental volunteers: Through this forum we have been able to enlist a bank of volunteers who assist with reading in school, accompanying pupils on trips, walking to the library etc. A reminder was included in a recent newsletter and on the school website reminding parents that we are always grateful for any parents who are able to volunteer some of their time to help us out.

Dance/Fitness Group: The fun/dance activity session usually held in the Sure Start Centre on a Thursday afternoon will move to a morning slot at 8.45 – 10.00am with effect from the 4th February. It is an 'adults only' session. Parents can go along after they have dropped their children off at school, have a coffee and a chat before joining in with a really fun, low key activity session. Why not give it a try!

Arts & Craft workshop: Kate Bushnell will organise this with Helen Murfin as maybe part of a family learning experience. More details will follow soon.

Letters/Info home: Parents discussed how information is sent home and the fact that sometimes the letters don't always get to them. It was suggested that the school sends any letters/information home once a week on a Friday. Parents will be informed of this new practice on Friday this week, 29th Jan.

Changes to the school day: There has been favourable feedback about the children being able to come straight into their classrooms in the morning from 8.40am. Parents are still able to speak to staff in the morning but if they need a longer conversation they are asked to go to the school office to make an appointment with the teacher after school. This is working well. For the future we will be consulting parents on an extension to the school day. The reason for this is because we want to enrich the curriculum we offer to the children, giving them opportunities for choices and a balance of learning. Other schools are able to offer enrichment afternoons and other learning experiences but we have no time at present because of our short days. A parent asked if the lunchtime would be extended but this will not be necessary because the staggered lunchtime arrangements we have in place work well for the pupils.

Social Event: The idea of a family quiz night was discussed and agreed this would be held on Wednesday 23rd March in the evening. More details will follow soon.

School Uniform: Parents discussed our uniform supplier and the cost of some of the garments. The school is taking on board issues with the current uniform and are looking at ways to solve the problems.

School Deliveries: Parents requested the school to ask delivery drivers to take extra care when driving out of the school gates as it is difficult to see pedestrians walking along the pavement. It was suggested a sign or mirror be put up alerting drivers leaving the school car park to take extra care when driving out. The school will organise this.

The next Parents Voice meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd February at 2.00pm

Join us for a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat.

As always, your support is very much appreciated.