

Parent Partnership

Parental Involvement

We believe that a successful parent and community partnership is essential to enhance the quality of education that we provide for the children. In order to make this partnership successful we strive to work closely together, valuing and appreciating all contributions made in helping us to provide a high standard of education for all children. Parents are encouraged to support the school in a range of different ways both in and out of school, as detailed below.

Prospective Parents

Any parents who are interested in registering their children to start school are welcome to make an individual appointment to visit the school, prior to registration or once they have registered. This is particularly important for parents whose children start school after the start of the academic year in any age group.

New Parents

The majority of children start school either in the Nursery or in the Reception unit in the year that they are going to be four or five years old. Parents are officially welcomed at the respective New Parents' evenings in June prior to the September start. Close partnership between home and school is emphasised at these meetings and all parents are encouraged to attend. An induction programme is explained which allows parents and children to get to know the school and for parents to discuss any concerns that they may have. In the Nursery year this includes an opportunity for the parents to meet with the Nursery Leader and for the children to come to an activity session. In the Reception year this includes an individual parent/teacher meeting and an activity session for the children..

At these evenings, parents are given an information file, which includes a prospectus and other necessary information. A Home School Agreement forms part of this file. Parents are asked to sign this agreement, which is in the form of a contract, to show that they support the policies of the school.

Parents of children who join after the start of the academic year are given the information file when they register their children.

Parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2 are invited to a "meet the teacher" session after school in the first week of the autumn term. At the beginning of each academic year, Key Stage 1 year groups provide parents with a welcome booklet which gives an overview of a school day and an outline of the year ahead.

Kids Club

The staff at Crosshall Kids Club are committed to working in partnership with parent/carers to provide a high-level quality of care and safe and stimulating play opportunities for children. The Kids' Club and Day Care offer care and play provision for up to 56 children from 8.00 am to 6.00pm daily, for 51 weeks of the year. There are

regular opportunities for parents/carers to meet with staff and discuss their child's progress and records and information are available to parents upon request. Parents are encouraged to be part of the Kids Club by joining in family fun days and social events. An annual parent survey is carried out.

Governors

Parents play an active role in the Governing Body and therefore in developing every aspect of the school. Parents have the opportunity to present an application for joining the governing body when vacancies arise for parent governors. Governors are invited to take an active role in school life by taking responsibility for a subject area and visiting school accompanied by the appropriate subject leader to see the children at work.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee offers an opportunity for parents to become involved in helping to raise money for "extras" to the school resources. The committee arranges the social aspects of the school. Events include: theatre entertainment for the children, the Crosshall Bookshop, Summer/Christmas Extravaganzas, organising the "Christmas shop" and providing funds for additional resources. Resources purchased include: SEN resources, decodable reading books, musical instruments, large play equipment, resources to develop the outside environment and refurbishing the children's kitchen. The fundraising year plan is set as a staff and then parents are invited to volunteer at events where necessary. Committee meetings are held termly as part of the teacher's Professional Development Meetings.

Consultation Evenings

Parents are invited to attend an individual meeting with their child's class teacher once a term. These meetings take place during the afternoon and early evening.

At the autumn consultation the discussions are around how the child has settled into their new class. The spring consultation, where parents can look at the child's work, is centred around the progress a child is making and a formal mid-year report is given to parents. Records of these consultations are kept by teachers. The summer consultation is an opportunity to discuss the child's End of Year report if parents wish to, it is not compulsory. Parents are requested to comment on this report in written form and return it to their child's class teacher.

Curriculum Booklet

This is available to read via the website. This covers the range of the curriculum taught.

Curriculum Evenings

Evening or afternoon presentations or workshops about specific areas of the curriculum are held, as a response to demand or to address a particular perceived need. For Reception parents there is a Reading Workshop in the autumn term and a Maths Workshop in the spring term and for Year 1 parents there is a Phonics Workshop in the autumn term.

Curriculum Focus Sheet

Each year group studies a different topic each half term. Details of the topic to be taught are sent via Parent mail to parents prior to the start of each topic. This includes ways in which parents can help their children and any resources that the children are encouraged to bring in. There is also a whole school weekly newsletter detailing what is being taught that week in each year group.

Helping in School

All parents are invited to help in school on a regular or occasional basis, by prior arrangement. Parents may help in their child's class, or a different class or with a group of children. Alternatively, parents may help by doing a job either in school or at home. Parents may also wish to help on school trips or on certain occasions e.g. to demonstrate a particular skill or help at a special event. All parents who help in school are given a 'Helping in School' booklet.

It is essential that any parents wishing to help in any capacity in school have a current DBS check issued from the school. A previously held check from a different workplace is not sufficient.

Homework

This allows parents to become actively involved in their children's learning. Our homework policy is based on government expectations.

Homework set consists of regular reading at home. A home school dialogue is kept in the form of a child's individual reading diary, which parents are asked to comment in on a regular basis. In addition, spellings and mathematic skills are sent home in Year 1 and Year 2 on a weekly basis for the children to practise and learn. As a further involvement in learning, children (particularly in the Reception year) are asked to bring named items into school to support their learning. Other additional activities may be suggested to parents, particularly if children have Special Needs.

Individual Appointments

Parents may make individual appointments with Class Teachers, the Team Leader or the Headteacher to discuss specific matters. Equally, Class Teachers may wish to make appointments with parents. These will be arranged at a mutually convenient time. Records of these meetings are kept.

Informal Liaison

As a school with an open door policy, liaison is often of an informal nature e.g. teachers may let parents know when children have worked particularly well or to show a specific piece of work. Equally parents may wish to share incidental information with teachers without the need for a formal appointment.

Special Needs Meetings

Parents of children with Special Educational Needs are asked to attend a termly review of their child's progress during which a new Individual Education Plan (Learning Plan) will be shared. This may be in addition to the termly consultation. Parents are asked to sign to show that they have received and reviewed the Learning Plan.

Concerts/Assemblies

Each class invites the parents and carers to a short assembly (usually themed around the current topic) during the school day, once a year during the spring term. Concerts performed by Reception and Year 1 take place in the summer term. Year 2 hold a special 'leavers' assembly to which parents are invited at the end of the summer term.

At Christmas parents are invited to attend the Christmas assemblies or performances during the school day. Times and numbers of performances can vary but efforts are made to ensure that two parents can attend according to the limitations of space.

Charity Fund Raising

The school supports various charities over the year including Children in Need, NSPCC and Cancer Research and parental support is valued in helping the children to take part in and donate to these various events.

Letters

The school has a no paper policy and all information is sent via Parent mail over the year e.g. term dates, forthcoming events, and general guidance, usually in the form of a Newsletter. A weekly newsletter is sent out every Friday which each year group contributes towards and contains specific information for the following week.

Lunchtime

Lunchtimes are a special occasion every day. Parents and other visitors may come into school at lunchtime to eat with children. Lunches are booked at the school office. Weekly menus are available from the office or the web site to enable parents to be involved in their child's choice of lunch.

Open Day

Every year we have an Open Day giving parents the chance to come into school to see the children working and to have a look around the different classes and areas in school. An invitation is sent out to inform parents of this day. Parents are invited to write a comment on their observations.

Questionnaires

Bi-annually a questionnaire is sent out to parents to ask for opinions on different aspects of school. Once the information has been collated a response is sent to all parents. Other questionnaires are used to get feedback on specific issues for example new reports, welcome booklet

Web Site

Details of school life can be accessed on the school website: www.crosshallinfant.co.uk
The school can be e-mailed at info@crosshallinfant.co.uk

Social Media

The school has its own social media page on both Facebook and Instagram. These are regularly updated with information that parents may require, reminders, updates on educational visits or information regarding staff or governor vacancies. In addition, these platforms are used to showcase the variety of educational experiences that the children have while at school.

Community Partnership

Crosshall Junior School

Liaison with Crosshall Junior School involves regular meetings between the Headteachers and Assistant Headteachers. Transfer between schools is an important feature of liaison between Year 2 and Year 3 teachers in the summer term. Year 6 children currently help in the Infant School as part of their Citizenship curriculum.

Training

As a successful school we provide a range of training for other students and teachers. We train postgraduate students, as part of their teacher training courses. We also provide training placements for students from other child-care related courses.

Outside Agencies

Many outside agencies provide support for the school. These include The Educational Psychologist, Speech & Language Therapists, Specialist teachers, Visual Impairment Service and Hearing Impairment Service.

Local Business

We have developed links with local businesses that are willing to support the school in a variety of ways, including financial help. These include: -

- Fusion Martial Arts: financial support
- Giggs and Company
- Guess Ltd
- Sterling Electrical
- Macro Art
- Premier Plus
- Beds Timber
- St Neots Interiors
- Robinsons
- A1 Autos
- T.D Autos
- ESCA

- Ocado
- Tesco
- Waitrose
- Co-Operative Society
- Waitrose

Liaison with other Schools

Close contact is maintained by the Reception team with all the main feeder pre-schools and Nurseries prior to each new intake. All year groups take part in cluster moderation meetings with other local schools.

Associates of the school

Many people visit our school and contribute to school life and consequently, the success of the school. These include St Mary's church hosting school visits to the church. The school nurse and associated medical staff work both with children and parents in supporting child welfare in school. Regular Family Worker drop in sessions are scheduled on a monthly basis which parents are invited to make an appointment should they require it.

HOMEWORK POLICY

The purpose of homework:

- ◆ To extend school learning.
- ◆ To reinforce skills and understanding.
- ◆ To encourage children, as they get older, to develop confidence and self-discipline to study on their own.
- ◆ To enable Parents/Carers to become actively involved in their children's learning.

Homework Activities

The homework set consists of:

- **Reception**- Reading
- **Year 1**- Reading, Spelling and Maths skills are sent home on a weekly basis for the children to practise and learn.
- **Year 2** - Reading, Spelling and Maths skills are sent home on a weekly basis for the children to practise and learn.

As far as possible we try to keep a regular pattern for setting homework to enable parents and children to establish a familiar routine.

Special Educational Needs

It is felt that some children may benefit from doing additional or more varied activities at home. The school has a wide range of resources available to support these children. Usually the class teachers approach any parents of children who come into this category.

Lunchtime Menu

Full details of the lunchtime menu are displayed on the school website
www.crosshallinfant.co.uk/school-lunch/

Newsletters

All newsletters are produced as Publisher documents. They are added to the school website www.crosshallinfant.co.uk/correspondence/

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