



Issue no 2 Friday 18th September 2015



Parental Involvement at Julian's Primary School

At Julian's School we believe that when parents and carers are involved with their children's education and learning, both at school and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more.

Throughout the year we keep in touch with our parents and carers through our:

- ⇒ Website
- ⇒ Class blogs
- ⇒ PTFA meetings
- ⇒ Text messages / emails
- ⇒ Parent / carer conferences
- ⇒ Parent / carer forum
- ⇒ Surveys
- ⇒ Year group meetings
- ⇒ Individual discussions
- ⇒ Family Learning

A newsletter is sent out each Friday.

Policy

We have a Parental Involvement policy which outlines the ways in which we encourage involvement at school.

The policy is available on the website.

Practice

In practice, we work hard to build strong and lasting relationships with parents/carers.

An example of this is the high number of ex-Julian's secondary school students who request work placements at Julian's.

School staff, including senior leaders, learning mentors and class teachers are in both playgrounds at the beginning and end of each day to answer questions, make appointments and generally just be available for a chat. All class teachers, learning mentors and senior leaders are also available by email for specific questions and concerns. Email addresses are publicised at each parent/carers consultation evening.

This informal communication is very important in making the school an open and welcoming place to be.

Website

Our website will be re-launched this academic year. Each class has a page, which is updated regularly and homework sheets are made available for download when appropriate.

We share whole school information such as term dates and forthcoming events, and there is an interactive diary for whole school, class and sports events. The website is colourful and easy to navigate.

Volunteers

We have always actively encouraged volunteering at school. People are a valuable resource and we are very grateful to those members of our parental community and the wider community who give up their time on a regular basis to support learning in our school.

Our volunteer register is made up in the majority of parents and carers who help us with a range of activities including – 1:1 reading, befriending, 1-off workshops related to the creative curriculum, general TA or classroom support work. All regular volunteers have a current DBS certificate and they observe the conventions of confidentiality and safeguarding.

It is thanks to our many parent/carer volunteers that we are able to keep our educational visits regular and affordable. These visits enrich our curriculum, which has been graded as 'Outstanding' in three consecutive inspections.

Activities our volunteers are currently involved with include

- * Group work with children
- * Guided Reading support
- * 1:1 reading support
- * Support in the Reception classes with reading and phonics
- * General support in our Nursery
- * Drama workshops

Parent/Carer Survey

Every year we survey parents/carers at consultation evenings to find out more about views on learning and other aspects of our school.

Inclusion

Many of our parents/carers seek advice and information from our Inclusion Team. This is particularly important with the secondary transfer process. We recognise that secondary transfer can cause anxiety for families and so we are proactive in supporting parents, carers and children through this time.

Our mentors have a wealth of experience and knowledge and are able to signpost to websites and organisations which can offer support for a range of needs. This is done on a 1:1 basis and the mentors observe high levels of confidentiality.

We also buy in services including speech and language service, play therapy and the educational psychology service. All of these professionals work closely with parents/carers to ensure that they are meeting the needs of children and families.

General Communication

We have a number of parents/carers who do not speak English as their first language. We have enlisted support from other parents/carers and we have worked hard to recruit staff and volunteers who speak more than one language in order to meet this need. We currently have no families who are not able to communicate with the school.

Parent/Carer Forum

Established by the school and governing body, the Parent/Carer Forum is a discussion and feedback group which is run by parents/carers for parents/carers. The forum is independent and they do not have decision making authority. The parent/carer forum provides a valuable service in feeding back suggestions to the school. You can contact parent / carers forum by email:

margheritawatt@yahoo.co.uk

marianna.abbotts@yahoo.co.uk

cgfifield@btinternet.com

PTFA

Julian's School PTFA is a self-sustaining fundraising organisation. The PTFA is very active and over the years has enriched school life by contributing towards the cost of the climbing wall, Year 6 leavers' t-shirts and play/outdoor equipment at both the Streatham and West Norwood sites.

In addition, the PTFA has a busy calendar to involve members of the school community both socially and for fund-raising. Both the Christmas and Summer Fairs are hugely successful each year, and the regular cake sales are welcomed by children and staff alike! We have a very talented parent/carer community and we are very grateful for their hard work and dedication to the school.

Parent/Carer workshops

We hold a range of workshops for parents/carers to support their children's learning.

These include:

- * phonics workshops for Reception parents/carers
- * phonics workshops for Year 1 parents/carers
- * reading workshops for Reception parents/carers
- * maths workshops for KS1 and KS2 parents/carers
- * grammar workshops for KS2 parents/carers

As a direct result of feedback given, we continue to add to the range of workshops offered each year. We also aim to offer the workshops at different times of the day and on different days of the week in order to reach as many parents/carers as we can.

Induction for parents/carers of Reception children

Each year, we hold open mornings for prospective parents/carers of Reception children. As part of this induction, we run tours of the school so that parents/carers can see the children in their environment. The tours are led by the children, and we always receive feedback about how polite and welcoming our children are.

Children who are offered a place at Julian's, are invited to attend an open afternoon so that children and parents/carers can discover the Early Years classrooms together.

Later, before the child starts in September, the class teacher and early years educator will do a home visit to learn more about individual children, their interests and their needs. In school, we hold a presentation session for new parents/carers to explain the school day, lunches, PE etc, and communicate expectations around behaviour, uniform etc.

In the first week, we encourage parents/carers to settle their children at school in partnership with school staff.

Parent/Carer consultation meetings

These take place three times per year over two days from 3.30-6pm. Senior leaders always attend and are available to talk about any issues you may have. We also use this opportunity to gather the opinions of parents/carers on key issues such as transition, homework, the website etc.

Enrichment activities

We offer a number of enrichment activities over the course of the academic year to engage parents/carers in the children's learning at school. We have a termly 'Creative Afternoon' which is an opportunity for children to showcase the work they have done in their Creative Context. Children also work on activities with their parents/carers in the classroom during the afternoon.

We have 'Open Reading' sessions on the first Friday of the month. This session runs from 9-9.30am, which is the time that children have Guided Reading every day. During these sessions, parents/carers can read with their own children and with other children too. Parents/Carers have full access to the classroom, and they have the chance to see how things work in practice. Feedback to this has been extremely positive.

In the summer term of 2016, we will hold a Cultural day. This will include an evening event and be an opportunity for parents/carers to share aspects of another culture, including storytelling and cooking.

We hold twice-yearly music concerts to showcase the children's musical development, from Year 1 to Year 6. At the end of the year children in Year 6 perform for parents/carers.



Class	% Attendance
1P	94.8
1CS	95
1J	99.7
1CN	99.2
1E	100
2A	98.7
2VH	98.9
2G	92.7
3E	97
3P	97
3CK	96.1
4AW	95.5
4AM	100
4AN	97
5RP	98.3
5J	95
6DL	100

Congratulations

IE, 4AM

and **6DL**

on achieving

100%

attendance last week.

Well done!

Visits Next Week

Monday 21/9/15	4AW	Golden Hinde
Tuesday 22/9/15	All Year 2	Shoreham on Sea
Wednesday 23/9/15	4AN	Golden Hinde
Wednesday 23/9/15	4AM	Golden Hinde

Parking - West Norwood Site

We have received an email from a concerned resident who lives on Prioress Road.

The road is signposted as parking for residents only.

However some parents and carers collecting pupils from the West Norwood

site have apparently been seen parking in that road. This can cause access difficulties for residents.

We appreciate that the majority of parents and carers park responsibly however all families are reminded that they should not park in an estate marked for residents only.

It is important the school's reputation in the local community is not tarnished.

Thank you for your co-operation.

