



Feedback From the Parents' 'Shaping Stebon's Future' Conference 2022

This is the feedback from the parents' 'Shaping Stebon's Future' conference which was held on 1st February 2022.

Many thanks to those parents who came & contributed their ideas at this event. Your ideas are invaluable to us & will be used to help us to improve our school.

We look forward to seeing you all at the **'Shaping Stebon's Future'** conference next year.

Jeremy Iver, Headteacher



Parental Partnerships

What you said was going well

- Email communication
- Great communication on newsletters and like the updates
- Parent book swaps
- Nice to socialise with other parents back in the playground
- Like the coffee mornings – great idea
- Surestart
- Good with parent pay announcements
- Good to have face to face contact with parents
- 'No job too small' – staff at Stebon
- Staff are always approachable, helpful and welcoming
- Texts are helpful - like emails too; easier to keep track of communication
- Parents have a voice school at the school

Your ideas for improvement

What we'll do about it

What you need to do

Coffee mornings is a great idea however, it is hard for working parents to attend

We'll keep doing coffee mornings & explore ways of keeping them fresh & interesting

Calling all working parents! Let us know the kind of thing you'd be interested in attending (bearing in mind Chanel needs to go home sometime)

Facebook to be used more

This is a great idea - the younger members of staff particularly seem to agree. We'll get Rabea - the Trust's executive PA - to explore this with the admin team

Let us know what the most useful content would be. What would you go to a facebook page for?

Up to date website - navigating through

We're on it. We've been working on it for a few months - the brand new website will be launched early in the summer term

Let us know what you think, including what you think we've missed

Parents coming in for open 'rehearsals'

We'll run this one by Jen. It may be that this is easier to accommodate for dress rehearsals than for earlier ones

Don't feel any pressure to come to rehearsals. The children want you there for the final performance!

More workshops with parents

You're right - it would be good to get back to a full agenda of workshops. This is as good for us as it is for you - you're such a help for us at home!
We've also learned a thing or two about remote & recorded workshops over the last couple of years so perhaps we could have some of those too

We know that English (including phonics) & maths workshops are really useful. Let us know what else you think would be good

More engagement with parents and teachers

Since the end of covid restrictions, parents have had the opportunity to catch up with teachers at the end of the school day in the playground. Parents of children in the early years & KS1 can even come in at the beginning of the school day if there's anything urgent they need to share or discuss

It would be great to know a little more about the kind of engagement you'd like

More information to parents about curriculum and what the children will cover each term

You should receive a curriculum booklet via email. If this hasn't happened, we need to do something about that. It's important information that you

Let us know if you haven't received your child's curriculum booklet ... and talk to your children about it if

		should have so that you can talk to your children about it	you have
	Letters sent out – uploaded on website	Another excellent idea. We will float this one past our brand new office manager, Aysha. (The same Aysha - just with a promotion!)	Keep an eye out on the website
	English lessons for parents	ESOL classes have long been a fixture at Stebon	Let us know: Do we need more? Or ones of a different kind? Any other lessons?

The Return from Lockdown	What you said was going well		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropping children off at the gates allows more time for learning • Makes children feel important when greeted at the door • Less congestion at the gates and having different gates really helps • End of the day – one way system really helps • Staggered ending at the end of the day helps for those with children in EYFS/KS1 • Learning • More confident on digital skills and having individual Chromebooks • Respecting adults and each other when learning online • Great to be back to clubs and outside trips • Explorers - the children love mixing with other children – great trip to the retirement home and great memories made • Pre-Christmas contingency plans and sending the children with chromebooks was an excellent idea • School was ahead of the times; we saw how much work was done by members of staff • Parents want to give appreciation to the school 		
	Your ideas for improvement	What we'll do about it	What you need to do
	Unsure what the children are learning now but knew what they were learning at home during lockdown – better communication	Communication did feel robust during lockdown, didn't it. We'll review our termly curriculum booklets & discuss how we share this information better	
	Sending curriculum maps home so you could help children	The curriculum section on our website is something I'm particularly proud of. It details what each class does when during the year. There's also a link to the curriculum map The curriculum team are currently working on knowledge organisers for each subject next year too. We'll share these with you as soon as they're ready	Explore the curriculum section of the website
	Unsure who the adults in the classroom are this year	We've been lucky to have more than 20 young people helping out in classrooms this year as part of the Kickstart scheme - we'll make sure to let you know who they are if they're in your child's class	Ask your child's class teacher at the end of the day
Videos to help parents understand what their children are learning and how to help them	Excellent idea. We did well at this during lockdown - it's good to learn from the success of those lessons	Let us know how well we're doing	

	Communication about end of KS2 tests, discussing individual targets for the children	This is really important. In the summer term, Olly will meet with parents of children currently in year 5 about specific targets for the following year, how parents can support their children over the summer holiday and what progress towards SATs will look like.	Keep talking to your children about their targets. This really helps
	More trips and for parents to attend the trips too	This year, trips are starting up again in earnest & they're going really well. The children love them & they get so much learning from them. Wherever we can, we will encourage parents to come	You may need to cover your own travel costs for some trips & there may be some trips that parents are not able to come on. Residential, for example, give pupils the opportunity to spend time away from parents!

The way that we teach (pedagogy)	What you said was going well		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorers curriculum - a different way of teaching • Reflect & refocus room for children struggling to cope in the classroom with behaviour • Year 1 reading journal is great • Book reading • Streaming for phonics • Children love swimming • Children with SEND use pictures to help read • Children feel part of the classroom and like working with other children 		
	Your ideas for improvement	What we'll do about it	What you need to do
	Better communicate the purpose behind the 'Friday' afternoon lesson (Explorers)	Our new website should be launched in May. There will be a page dedicated to Explorers. I think we're breaking important new ground with our Explorers curriculum - it's brilliant. You may well have found out more about it by now, including from your children	Check out the new website
	Spelling and high frequency words Focusing on all children and not just the children who have fallen behind during Covid.	Leaders & teachers are accountable for the learning & achievement of ALL children. It's a job we take extremely seriously. However, if some children have fallen further behind than others, it is right that we give them the help they need	Parents are our greatest learning allies. Please help us to help your child by practising reading with them, including high frequency words & spellings
Homework general and for children in year 5 and year 6 to help transition for secondary school	Homework is always a bit of a hot potato. Some parents want more, others less. The research around homework in primary school is not especially conclusive. Our new family learning policy is outlined on the website - complete with embarrassing video!	The most important thing you can do to support your child's learning is to talk to them about what they are learning in school; what they find difficult and what they enjoy	

What is happening with the teaching of Spanish?	We have a new Spanish scheme of work - it is being taught by all teachers across KS2. Rozy is the modern foreign languages lead	Ask your child to teach you some Spanish!
Tasks to be set and tailored on Mathletics	Teachers know how to set tasks and do so when it's appropriate. We will support teachers in making sure this is consistently applied	Support your child with Mathletics at home whenever they need it
Building behaviours such as confidence	Behaviours & attitudes such as these are so important, not just for school but for life. Our Explorers curriculum is aimed specifically at building behaviours such as teamwork, fairness, kindness & citizenship. Behaviours are also built into and focused on during our themed weeks	Talk with your children about Explorers & how important it is to grow these behaviours in themselves
Y1 reading journal was never communicated on how to use it	I'm sorry to hear this. It's vital that all parents, particularly those of our younger pupils, understand this so that you can support us by supporting your children's reading at home. We need to make sure everyone gets it	If you're still not clear, talk to your child's class teacher
No P.E in reception – (does do indoors/outdoors but wants to change into P.E kit)	We have started PE in reception this term. Children are practising using the areas and equipment they will use in KS1 such as ball skills, the balancing equipment and bikes	Please make sure your child has the correct PE uniform
Parents would like to know more about how EYFS works in Stebon	It's really important that parents new to our school really understand how we operate and the kind of school we are. We will make sure that there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved	There's also plenty of information on our website

General Feedback

What you said was going well

- Children love school and love getting certificates for attendance
- Good videos preparing children to come back to school
- 'No job too small' – staff at Stebon
- Chromebooks made such a difference
- Staff are always approachable, helpful and welcoming
- Prefer emails – texts are helpful
- Parents have a voice school at the school
- Children are happy and safe in the school
- Lunch menu has improved
- Drama programme at the school
- Improvements in the way teachers engage with children particularly younger age groups
- Parents mentioned that they were very happy with current Covid contingencies
- After school club, breakfast club timing and pricing – readily available – as a working parent, it has been brilliant
- Teachers talk with me every week about my son and he is speaking more English
- Meeting with other parents is good because most schools don't do this

Your ideas for improvement

What we'll do about it

What you need to do

Last minute communication and notice such as, meetings, swimming and holiday clubs

Our aim is that parents are informed of events, meetings & changes to any of the above with as much notice as possible. We will usually communicate by email; there may be occasions where we need to send a text - this will be rare. Our new office manager, Aysha, is dynamite with communication

Keep the feedback coming so we know how well we're doing

Check your emails regularly

Appointments that are counted towards attendance is not fair e.g. Covid

It's great to know that attendance is so important to parents. We don't have a choice about the codes we use for attendance registers - they are statutory. What counts as an absence & what doesn't is not decided by schools

It sounds obvious but keep doing what you can to make sure your children are healthy & happy & come to school every day

Reinstating coffee mornings. (Weekly) – Great opportunity to engage with parents

Happy to say these are up & running again. I know they are very popular with the parents that come.

Why not drop in? Especially if you've never been before

More after optional school club activities related to curriculum (e.g. Reading Club, Maths Club etc...an opportunity for children who wish to improve attainment)

We will look for opportunities to do provide more of these in 2022-23

Any suggestions are welcome

Parents feel there is some gap in quality of teaching between established members of teaching staff and new hires, and also new hires' engagement with parents and children

I think this is a misconception & not entirely fair. Teachers newer to our school are more likely to have begun their teaching careers during lockdown & so won't have had the opportunity to build those face to face relationships with parents that are so important. They have also had to get to grips with remote learning at the same time. In many cases, it is these new teachers who have been the driving force behind teaching with technology. We will prioritise opportunities for all staff to forge & maintain these relationships with parents

Keep talking to us, let us know when things are going well too