



Stebon
School

Parent Power 2023

At the 'Shaping Stebon's Future' conference for parents in February 2022, you told us what you would like to see improved at the school. Here's a reminder of what you said & information about how it has helped us to change things at Stebon for the better. Thank you.

	Parents suggested...	What we have done about it
Parental Partnerships	Coffee mornings is a great idea; however, it is hard for working parents to attend	Coffee mornings happen every Thursday morning and are really well attended. Sometimes we have guest speakers or workshops during this time which we agree would be hard for working parents to attend. We will continue to think about how we can make these more inclusive for working parents.
	Facebook to be used more	This is not something we have managed to do yet. Social media is great when used well, but we want to ensure that it is used safely and also provides you with the information you need & want. We will continue to explore this idea.
	Up to date website - navigating through	This is now completed. We have a brand new website which we hope you have seen and used. Almost everything you could want to know about Stebon is on it. We love it! If you haven't seen it, now's your chance.
	Parents coming in for open 'rehearsals'	We thought carefully about this as rehearsals follow a complicated timetable depending on the hall being free. We also want to ensure that the final performance is special for the children when they get to show you their full production. We have been sending out performance dates at the start of every half term so parents have at least 4 weeks' notice of their child's performance date. If, for any reason, you know you are not going to be able to make it to an actual performance, we'll invite you to a dress rehearsal.
	More workshops with parents	We have had workshops for parents in our Family Learning Room. These include Well-being and Relationships, Domestic Abuse, Girls-Friendly Society and a Dental Fluoride varnish workshop for parents. We hope you've enjoyed attending them. Please let us know of other things you'd be interested in moving forward! We still want to continue to develop some more curriculum based workshops including Reading, Writing and Maths - which will be online and in person.

	<p>More engagement with parents and teachers</p> <p>More information to parents about curriculum and what the children will cover each term</p> <p>Letters sent out – uploaded on website</p> <p>English lessons for parents</p>	<p>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. You are always welcome to book an appointment to meet your class teacher if you need to meet them, either by calling the school office or by emailing them directly.</p> <p>You should receive a curriculum booklet via email and the termly curriculum booklets are also available online. If this hasn't happened, we need to do something about that. It's important information that you should have so that you can talk to your children about it. There is a curriculum map on the website but we will make sure we send this out to you regularly so that you are reminded of what is coming up.</p> <p>All of our school newsletters are regularly uploaded on the new school website - so you can even catch up on past editions. You can also always ask the school office for a paper copy.</p> <p>These have started this term. We are at the initial stages of parents coming to be assessed by the ESOL instructor so he can begin the sessions. Come and join us!</p>
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	Parents suggested...	What we have done about it
The Return from Lockdown	<p>Unsure what the children are learning now but knew what they were learning at home during lockdown – better communication</p>	<p>Our curriculum is now on the website (it can be found here). This outlines the knowledge and skills your child will be learning each term for each subject. There's also home learning on there that complements what's happening in school and the weekly newsletter provides a great snapshot of the learning happening in class. With regards to keeping you up to date, we also hold welcome meetings in September. However, we will look to see if we can send out an email before term starts with an outline of what your child will be learning.</p>
	<p>Sending curriculum maps home so you could help children</p>	<p>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</p>
	<p>Unsure who the adults in the classroom are this year</p>	<p>With Covid behind us, we were really excited for class teams to welcome parents in September. In these welcome meetings, all staff that work with your child were introduced. They are also more accessible at the end of day, and are always happy to arrange meetings with you. When there are new faces during the year, we try to ensure they are announced in the weekly newsletter. We hope you've felt the difference this year.</p>
	<p>Videos to help parents understand what their children are learning and how to help them</p>	<p>This is a great idea, and one we are still wanting to develop. However, while we haven't managed to get new videos shared, teachers have enjoyed meeting with you all in parent consultation meetings. Here, each child is given their own targets to develop their learning.</p>
	<p>Communication about end of KS2 tests, discussing individual targets for the children</p>	<p>This is really important, and something we addressed with the Y5 parents at the end of the summer term, in preparation for their children's final year at school. We are also hosting another meeting, where we will talk about the tests in more detail (and include how to support your child) in January. Individual targets for children are discussed in parent consultation meetings, held twice a year, and you are always welcome to speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about the SATs!</p>
	<p>More trips and for parents to attend the trips too</p>	<p>Trips have been happening with more frequency this year, which is wonderful. It is so important that children are given the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom. Y1 and Y2 have made the most of parent volunteers attending trips - thanks for all your support!</p>

	Parents suggested...	What we have done about it
The way that we teach (pedagogy)	Better communicate the purpose behind the 'Friday' afternoon lesson (Explorers)	Our new website was launched (with minimal fanfare) in May with a page dedicated to Explorers. I think we're breaking important new ground with our Explorers curriculum - it recognises that being a good person should be a key aim of our curriculum in addition to academic excellence. Informal feedback from children is that they love it & teachers love it too.
	Spelling and high frequency words	All children from Y2 upwards have weekly practice of set spellings, using our scheme of work. They learn different strategies to support them with learning spellings, as well as different patterns. Reception and Y1 children are not left out, however. They are practising their high frequency words and learn to spell unknown words using phonics. Spellings are one of those things that need to be practised regularly, so support from you at home is vital! Ask your child's teacher if you want any more support with this.
	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. If some children have fallen further behind than others, however, it is right that we give them the help they need. Our focus on making sure that all children are prepared for the next stage in their education is certainly not holding others back. It appears even to have had a positive impact on the proportions of pupils going beyond age related expectations.
	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 <u>family learning</u> policy is outlined on the website - complete with embarrassing video!
	What is happening with the teaching of Spanish?	Our Spanish scheme of work is well-embedded - it is being taught by all teachers across KS2. Rozy is the modern foreign languages lead. We're looking forward to our Spanish day later in May this year.
	Tasks to be set and tailored on Mathletics	Mathletics is a great tool to support the teaching and learning of maths, with children practising key skills while at home. Teachers have been assigning tasks for children to complete, and we have a termly Mathletics assembly where we celebrate all the great learning that has been taking place!
	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.

	<p>Y1 reading journal was never communicated on how to use it</p> <p>No PE in reception – (does do indoors/outdoors but wants to change into PE kit)</p> <p>Parents would like to know more about how EYFS works in Stebon</p>	<p>Behaviours are also built into and focused on during our themed weeks and assemblies.</p> <p>Children started using reading journals successfully in reception last year, and have continued this in the same way in year 1. There were letters sent out in the Autumn term with reminders of how we will be using these. Please check your child's book bag regularly and let an adult in your child's class know if they have misplaced their reading record book or reading book.</p> <p>We start PE in reception in the summer term as part of transition arrangements to get ready for Y1; children practise using the areas and equipment they will use in KS1 such as ball skills, the balancing equipment and bikes. They also go swimming and attend a sports day in the summer term. Getting changed remains a challenge for many younger pupils. We really appreciate parents' support in helping children to practise being more independent.</p> <p>It's important that parents new to our school - and all parents - really understand how we operate and the kind of school we are. Since last year, we have thought of more opportunities for you to be informed & to get involved. Parents of pupils in reception, for example, now receive a weekly learning newsletter explaining learning for the following week & there's a weekly stay-and-play session in our 2-year-old provision</p>
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	Parents suggested...	What we have done about it
General Feedback	<p>Last minute communication and notice such as, meetings, swimming and holiday clubs</p> <p>Appointments that are counted towards attendance is not fair e.g. Covid</p> <p>Reinstating coffee mornings. (Weekly) – Great opportunity to engage with parents</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>We have reviewed our procedures to ensure that all communication with parents is delivered as far in advance as possible. There may be instances when last minute communication is sent out to keep parents informed of new changes and information. This is part of our endeavour to ensure that parents are kept well informed at all times.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Coffee mornings have been a great success. We have had themes including wellbeing and relationships, a visit from the dental team and Tower Hamlets Girls Friendly Society. New visitors are always welcome!</p> <p>We have used feedback from parents, children and our School Council to help decide the clubs we offer. The clubs have been selected to help enrich the curriculum, for example, the cooking club has elements of both English and maths with weighing ingredients and reading recipes.</p> <p>I think this is a misconception & not entirely fair. The newer teachers, who have just finished their training, have had the most recent training in line with educational research around best practice so can bring this into the classroom. In many cases, it is these new teachers who have been the driving force behind teaching with technology. We conduct regular monitoring of teaching and learning and ensure that all staff receive the same high quality professional development and training.</p>