



Stebon
School

Parent Power 2024

At the rescheduled 'Shaping Stebon's Future' conference for parents in June 2023, you told us what you loved about the school and what you would like to see improved. Here's a reminder of your suggestions for improvement & 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	<p>More regular communication about what they are learning at school; involve parents in learning process</p>	<p>At the beginning of the year we issue curriculum booklets in all year groups which outline what the children will be learning across the year. We also have welcome meetings in every year group where teachers share key year group information. We have discussed implementing a schedule of in class workshops taking place every 6 weeks. Some year groups have begun this already.</p>
	<p>When children are on residential, if the child can call their parents at least once</p>	<p>We know how hard it can be to be without your child for any length of time, especially if it's their first time away from home but this is a chance for them to practise being independent. Besides, there's so much to do on our residential, and arranging for 80 children to all call home would take too long & take them away from the fun stuff. They love it & will talk to you all about it when they get back!</p>
	<p>More meetings with teachers are needed e.g. school performances and other issues</p>	<p>We have an open door policy for parents. If you would like to meet with the class teacher you can always speak with them directly to arrange a mutually convenient time.</p>
	<p>Communication/messages to the class teachers do not always get through to/back to parent. Perhaps at the start of the year, parents are given their child's teacher's email address. Or if a message can be given to the parent that the teacher has got their message</p>	<p>Teacher emails are available to all parents, you will find this in the curriculum booklet that is issued at the start of each year. You can also ask the class teacher directly for their email address.</p>
	<p>More workshops to be given by class teacher/phase leader to show teaching strategies</p>	<p>This is something that we have been working hard to develop since last year and we are continuing to increase our offer. So far this year we have had workshops around using Tapestry in nursery, supporting maths at home and sharing strategies around teaching phonics and reading. Please continue to share your ideas for workshops with us and we will endeavour to run as many as we can across the school year.</p>
<p>Would like more parent trips during coffee mornings</p>	<p>Chanel runs parent trips throughout the year. It is great to hear that you are enjoying them and we will continue to plan trips when we can. It is also important to us that our</p>	

	<p>Coffee morning; let some parents take initiative to welcome new parents</p> <p>Special speakers on topics that parents want, e.g. social media - how to use and how to be effective</p> <p>Trips with kids that will increase parent/teacher bonding</p>	<p>schedule of coffee mornings covers a wide range of topics to support the varying interests of those who attend.</p> <p>This is a lovely idea and we are always keen to welcome new parents and to foster parent initiative and involvement. Please speak to Chanel about any specific ideas you may have that can help us do this.</p> <p>This term we had a successful workshop with the Educational Psychologist. We would love to hear from you with ideas for speakers and topics you are interested in.</p> <p>This is something we do a lot of in the Early Years! As children progress up the school we focus on developing their independence. There can also be limitations around the numbers of adults we can take on trips. Where it is possible to take parents on trips we will communicate with you in advance so you have plenty of notice.</p>
--	---	--

	Parents suggested...	What we have done about it
Reading & writing	<p>More help and support with spelling; end of week quizzes</p> <p>Spelling bee</p> <p>Spelling sets to suit the year group</p>	<p>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 they 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.</p>
	<p>Access to school library; more books from school</p>	<p>We agree. Each classroom has a mini-library in their book corners, which have a variety of books. But we are in the process of discussing options for library areas around school so that children can visit them too.</p>
	<p>Quality/selection of home reading books</p>	<p>Max, our English lead, spends a large proportion of his budget on new books each year, which are added to the book corners so children have a wide variety of books to read in school and take home to share with their families. We have also recently set up a donation scheme through which our good friends at Morgan Stanley can donate books to the school. Children have benefitted from several crates of books already this year.</p>
	<p>Consistency of home reading approach (monitoring of logs); some children do not have a reading log.</p>	<p>All children should have a reading log, please speak to your child's teacher if they don't have one. Year groups do use their reading logs in different ways, however. If you are unsure, please speak to your child's class teacher who will clarify for you. An ongoing conversation about your child's reading is so important.</p>
	<p>Yellow books/reading record - child doesn't have one. Feels more relaxed than before, would like more feedback</p>	
	<p>More book changes - the number of book handovers this year is reduced compared to last year</p>	<p>Children's books are changed every week. However, if you'd like your child to have more frequent book changes, that's totally possible. Please speak to their class teacher. It is really beneficial for a child to spend a week working on the same book because they're able to get so much out of it and it really helps embed vocabulary and improves their fluency as the book becomes more familiar to them.</p>
	<p>Opportunities to change books often - every other day for short books/stories</p>	
	<p>Resources to help encourage children who don't want to read/struggle to engage</p>	<p>It can be really difficult motivating children to read at home. It's always good to start with them reading for just a short amount of time so that children don't feel the pressure of having to read a large amount because we want to nurture the love of reading. It may be that a reward system at home may work for your child. We would recommend speaking to your child's teacher to ask about their reading habits at school as you may be able to mirror these at home. They would also be happy to set some targets with you and your child together around reading at home to</p>

	Reading awards?	help nurture their love of reading and feel successful! There is a summer reading challenge that is shared in the newsletter each year, and also emailed to parents during the summer term. There is also Accelerated Reader from year 3, whereby children can earn points the more reading they do.
--	-----------------	---

	Parents suggested...	What we have done about it
Maths	Workshops to help parents with current teaching strategies so they can help their child at home; focus on explaining teaching techniques for maths	We have introduced maths workshops in many year groups. We are trialling a new programme in Y6 with someone from New City College coming to lead workshops for parents in preparation for their children's SATs. If this is successful, we will look to see if we can roll it out across other year groups.
	More rewards or goal achievements in all subjects including maths, e.g. certificates, stickers, etc	We really want to celebrate all of your children's great learning at Stebon, and do so through our weekly achievement assemblies. With regards to maths specifically, we have termly assemblies to hand out Mathletics certificates, and now have a weekly trophy for the class with the most Mathletics points! We will make sure this goes in the newsletter so keep you up to date. The children love it!
	More educational apps for maths	As a school, we pay a subscription to enable all children to use Mathletics, which is an excellent programme to support children in their learning. There are also maths challenges on Purple Mash and other websites. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like any more support.
	Parents need to know strategies for each year group	This is really important and something that we want to ensure we can support you with. We have now published our calculation policy on the school website, as well as arranging sessions for parents to attend to learn more about how we teach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division later in the year.
	Maybe start of every term provide handsheet for each topic	In September, we hand out curriculum booklets which give an overview of all subjects, including maths, across that year. We will definitely look to share specific topics that we will be teaching at the beginning of each term.
	Tasks to continue learning at home when they are engaged	Children are given 'Family Learning' which includes maths challenges linked to that term's learning. Your child is also able to log into Mathletics to access questions linked to the learning they are doing in class.
	Mathletics - access at home	We encourage this and it has been great to see so many children logging into Mathletics at home. If your child doesn't know their login details, please speak to their class teacher.
	Access to maths curriculum at the start of the year	Our curriculum is published on the school website so you can see what each year group will be learning at each point in the year. It's important, however, that children don't forge ahead to the next bit too soon. Children need the chance to explore and deepen their understanding of each topic before they move on.

	Parents suggested...	What we have done about it
General Feedback	<p>Better end of year trip -> e.g. seaside w/ parents coming too.</p> <p>End of Y6 trip to be more exciting</p> <p>Finger food/parents can bring food to have a party afterwards. Chance for parents to socialise with children & other parents</p>	<p>We think that trips are a really important part of children's learning and a way to help them to understand the world. These are planned to link to subjects across the year and can be a great way to celebrate the end of a school year. There's always cost implications to trips, so if you can help us to fundraise for the end of the year events, we would love to plan something more ambitious for the children, that involves parents too.</p>
	<p>More competitions/awards not just related to sports e.g. art, poetry, storytelling</p>	<p>This is a great idea. At the moment we celebrate the children's achievements in these things in achievement assemblies ... but some do love a competition!</p>
	<p>Re swimming pool, can we have more?</p>	<p>We know we are so lucky to have a swimming pool at Stebon. Reception to year 6 all have the opportunity to go swimming several times during the year and we're always looking to build children's love of swimming. Swimming clubs are a good way to give your child more swimming time if this is something they enjoy.</p>
	<p>Block school holidays differently; blocking/moving half terms</p>	<p>We know that some Tower Hamlets schools are experimenting with different lengths of holidays, including lengthening the autumn half term holiday to 2 weeks and shortening the summer holiday by a week to compensate. We are not planning on making any changes at the moment but remain open to revisiting plans in the future.</p>
	<p>More choices for after school clubs</p>	<p>We now provide different choices for after school clubs - it's great that they're so popular!</p>
	<p>Make summer clubs & holiday school as norms and maybe allow parents</p>	<p>We now run holiday clubs in each of the main 3 school holidays. Speak to the office team if you'd like to know more. For safeguarding reasons, we limit parental involvement to supporting on trips wherever necessary.</p>
	<p>More parent involvement during sports day, parent voice</p>	<p>It's no exaggeration to say that we welcomed hundreds of parents to our school sports days; your support was truly amazing. If by 'involvement', you mean actually getting involved in the competitions, that's something we should look at!</p>
	<p>More celebration of different cultures, not just Spanish</p>	<p>We celebrate different cultures in many ways at school; in daily assemblies and themed days and weeks, through our Black History learning which is threaded across the curriculum, and even through our family learning and lunch menus. We are trying to make sure that this diversity is communicated more often with parents in the newsletter and curriculum booklets at the start of the year so you can see what the children are learning about.</p>
	<p>More staff in the playground; teachers more aware and vigilant</p>	<p>Playtimes have changed with our new timetable this year so there are now fewer children outside at any one time.</p>

		<p>This is making it easier for those adults outside to ensure all the children are happy and safe. We have also ensured that all playground staff are supported by a member of the leadership team. So far, feedback from staff and pupils is that the changes are having a positive impact.</p>
	Some children still not enjoying lunch	<p>We are working very hard at the moment to make lunchtimes enjoyable for all children. There's some very exciting changes we have already put in place this year and please keep an eye out for further communications on this. If you have a particular concern regarding your child please speak to their class teacher.</p>
	Volunteering opportunities	<p>We have a volunteer programme in school for adults to support across a range of roles in school. If you are interested then please do contact the office who will put you in touch with Chanel, our Family Liaison Officer.</p>
	Homework on their chosen topic	<p>We have a home learning curriculum on our website. This covers all areas of the curriculum and gives a range of activities for you and your children to do at home. There's a video here that will tell you more about it and you can find the family learning page of the website here. Class teachers love to see all the different things you have done at home to support your children so please bring them in or send them pictures via email.</p>
	More adults in class. TA is out supporting 1-1 needs	<p>Funding for schools is always difficult. Children with special educational needs have allocated funding to support them in a mainstream school. We always ensure that children who need support have this through time spent with the teacher and TAs, including both in class and during small group interventions.</p>