

Swanmore Primary School

Parent Partnership Group Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 10th October 2007 at 2.15-3.15pm

School Staff Room

Present:	Andy Yeoman	Kim Saunders
	Tessa Philpott	Jackie Hardaker
	Lyn Evans	Richard Atknison
	Nicky Green	Sandra Cox
	Liz Foggitt	Helen Pottle
	Kim Blakeway	Carol Loran
	Kirsty Williams	Lee Brickell
	Anne Lamerton	

Apologies: David Rose

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Purpose of Meetings

The group has been formed in order to bounce ideas off parents and gain opinions and actions about whole school issues that they may wish to influence. It is not about individual issues. These need to be dealt with directly with the school.

Members of this group are encouraged to communicate with parents outside of the group, in order to address any concerns they may have.

Certain issues raised may be more appropriately dealt with by the school governors, in which case this is what will happen.

3. School Photographs

Last year the school received several complaints about the children's "individual" photographs taken. The school has sourced a new company Cardwell and Simons who have several photograph packages available at very competitive prices. The photos will now be taken over the course of a day rather than just a morning.

Action required from the group to select a suitable Background and Subject Pose.

Outcomes:

- Background - plain and light, neutral but not white
- Pose – sitting side on facing camera
- Timing of individual photos to be brought forward to the first week after half term
- Request made that helpers are present to ensure children look their best, i.e. shirt collars out, hair brushed.

4. Reading Challenge

The idea of the challenge was to reinforce to parents and children how important reading is. The school acknowledges how much more reading has been done over the past 2 weeks.

General feedback from parents included that the children and most parents were really motivated by the challenge. Some raised the issue of what would happen once the challenge ended in 2 weeks time.

Andy highlighted how a short, but intense period of time seems to work better than continued or repeated challenges. However, the overall opinion was that the reading challenge should be repeated once a year as it has shown to have such a positive response.

5. Book Fayre

Last year many parents were unhappy with the timing of the autumn term book fayre. The feedback was that it was held too close to Christmas. Therefore, Andy has not arranged a book fayre this term.

Feedback was required as to when in the school year should there be a book fayre.

Outcome:

- A suggestion was made to hold the book Fayre within the week that "World Book Day" happens, so that the vouchers can be spent.

- Another suggestion was that maybe the book fayre could be held before the reading challenge.
- Parents have also requested that more “pocket money’ priced books be available for children to purchase.
- Andy will take these suggestions into consideration for next year.

6. Items for future agendas

- School reports - are parents satisfied with the contents?
- Parent Mail
- Carols round the Tree – health and safety, capacity
- After school club
- Homework quantities– policy and government recommendations
- Reception- phasing children in and timings
- Car parking -? marking out bays
- Bike racks
- School rucksacks
- School uniform- quality

Actions: Parents are requested to come prepared to the next meeting, with ideas for what they want to see in the school reports.

Next Meeting: Thursday 29th November 2007 2.15-3.15pm