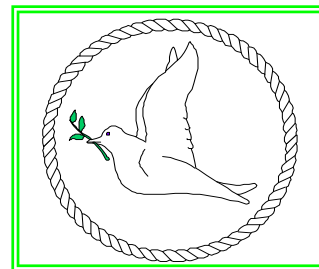




Peacefield Primary School



Marple Primary Schools

Transition Newsletter - April 2009

*For all Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors at
Rose Hill, Peacefield and The Dale Primary Schools*

Keeping you updated...

The Transition Working Party (TWP) met again on Tuesday 24 March 2009.

Thank you to all of you who responded to the consultation on the school opening times, and for the comments and questions that have been received since the last newsletter was issued.

As well as regular newsletters, we have now developed a web page where you can view information relating to the ongoing work. We will update information as and when it becomes available. You can link to the pages via your school's website, or go direct to:

www.stockport.gov.uk/have_your_say

In addition, we know that some childminders have not received the last newsletter and would be grateful if parents could pass a copy of each newsletter on to make sure that childminders know what arrangements are being considered.

In this issue...

- SCHOOL VISITS
- SCHOOL COUNCILS MEETING
- TRANSPORT SURVEY
- WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
- YOUR QUESTIONS REVISITED
- CHILDCARE CONTACTS
- PUPIL NEWSLETTER
- REMINDER OF THE GROUP'S PURPOSE
- EVENTS UPDATES

Reminder of group members...

Parent Governor representatives:

Julie Ramsbottom, Peacefield
Karen Dooley, Rose Hill
Libby Reeve, Rose Hill
Meryl Blackburn, The Dale
Phillip Mills, Peacefield
Simon Sheard, The Dale

Headteachers:

Anne Gill, Peacefield
Joyce McClusky, The Dale
Lynn Bragg, Rose Hill

Council Officers:

Moira Rayner, Link Adviser
Michelle Booth, Project Officer

What's been happening...

SCHOOL VISITS HAVE TAKEN PLACE

Pupil visits have taken place to see the classrooms and school layout. There was lots of positive feedback from the pupils... they were surprised to meet lots of children they already knew.

SCHOOL COUNCILS MEETING

Meetings have taken place between the three School Councils to consider the school logo competition and uniform colour. All the school councillors have taken the views of their classmates and represented them at the meeting.

To make sure that a wider range of views are considered, it was agreed to send a letter to all families so that they can feed back views about the school uniform.

Details of the school logo competition will be sent out soon and all pupils will be encouraged to submit an entry!

TRANSPORT SURVEY COMPLETED...

The Transport Survey took place during the week of 9-13/03/09. Thank you to those of you who returned the travel diary to school. This will be invaluable in assessing the future needs for the area. The Council is hoping to receive the outcomes and recommendations from the survey within the next month and will then consider what needs to happen next.

SCHOOL BUILDING DESIGN UNDERWAY

On 05/03/09, a group made up of pupils, staff and parent governors from each school met with architects, community group representatives and officers to begin the thinking on a design for the new school building.

It was a fun session to consider what people like and dislike about the design and use of buildings. All the feedback will be considered by the architects who will now start to do initial designs for the building.

When we have an initial draft design, we will consult with the wider group of parents, staff and local residents to see what you think. Details will be sent to you as soon as possible on how you can get involved and see the plans/comment on them.

What we'll be doing next...

PUPIL NEWSLETTER...

A newsletter will be issued for pupils at all three schools to keep them updated on what is happening... each of the headteachers will contribute by passing on comments for inclusion and feedback from pupils so that it can be shared.

STAFF RECRUITMENT

The recruitment process for teaching staff is now underway and we will hopefully be able to let you know the outcome in the next newsletter.

Your Questions Revisited...

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL BE ORGANISED?

We have already confirmed that the school will be organised with Key Stage 1 pupils in the Walton Drive building and Key Stage 2 pupils at Elmfield Drive. As soon as we are able, we will confirm the arrangements for nursery provision.

WHAT ABOUT BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION?

Mrs Bragg has now met with the providers who have agreed to work together to manage the children between the two sites, this includes all the various clubs currently provided. Hopefully this will address some parents' concerns about movement between school buildings.

WHAT ABOUT THE STAFF? AND WILL THERE BE ENOUGH OF THEM?

The process is currently underway to recruit the teaching staff for posts at Rose Hill. In the next newsletter we will hopefully be able to update you on the appointments.

There are two development days planned for 8 and 9 June 2009 which will be for all staff who will be working together from September 2009. Joint staff meetings will also take place on a regular basis during the Summer term. This will help to plan for a smooth start to the new school year.

WHAT ABOUT CHILDCARE ON EXTRA CLOSURE DAYS?

We have discussed the possibility of childcare opportunities on additional closure days for the schools. The before and after school companies will be able to provide some support for these. Please contact them direct if you need to arrange childcare for any of the closure days.

Marple Child Care: 0161 427 3686 or 0161 427 1352

WILL CLASSMATES AND/OR SIBLINGS BE SPLIT UP?

In the last newsletter, we advised that no child in any class will be the only one from their current school. Due to uneven groups of children for each year, the fair way to establish class groups is according to age. The opportunity to meet new friends and pupils who are already friends outside of school will help with the integration of the school population.

WHAT ABOUT HEALTH AND SAFETY?

We have asked for some further information on how the contractors will ensure health and safety on the school site during building works... here are a few ways they will achieve this:

- approval of safety plan by health and safety co-ordinator before work starts
- monitoring of the safety plan throughout the works
- fencing off the building works
- site tours for pupil involvement and awareness raising
- no unsupervised contact between contractors and children

WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL UNIFORM BE?

As indicated above, a letter will be sent to all families so that they can feed back views about the school uniform.

Further questions have been received on the return slips and we will explore these further for the next newsletter.

How else you can get involved...

New Addition...

INDUCTION DAY FOR PUPILS

When pupils prepare to go to secondary school, induction days are held so that they can visit their new class room and meet new classmates. We will hold a similar event on Thursday 02/07/09.

And don't forget....

OPEN DAYS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

The Dale Tuesday 21/04/09 2-6.30pm
Rose Hill Tuesday 28/04/09 2-6.30pm

These open days will provide all parents and carers with the opportunity to see the classrooms and buildings where children will learn from September 2009 – please try to attend. There will also be a meeting at each school on these days, open to all parents, at 6.45pm to enable parents to meet with and talk to Mrs Bragg.

More Socially...

New Addition...

BARBEQUE EVENING at Rose Hill Primary School – Friday 10/07/09 – time to be confirmed

All parents and carers are invited to attend!

And don't forget...

QUIZ NIGHT at The Dale Primary School - Tuesday 24/04/09 from 8pm

All parents are welcome to attend and have the opportunity to get to know each other!

Further events will be announced in the next newsletter, including a PTA pub bash!

What is the purpose of the TWP?

The TWP will work together on the transitional arrangements for the three schools, acting as an advisory group. The group is not a decision making group, but will represent the views and concerns of parents, ensuring that your views are taken into account when decisions need to be made.

After each meeting of the TWP, we will send out a newsletter, letting you know how your views have been considered and what progress is being made. We will always welcome your feedback and questions.

Listening to you...

Don't forget, we want to hear your views! We have to bear in mind that people often have differing opinions about the same issue. The group will therefore make sure that views are fairly represented. All decisions taken by the school will need to be made bearing in mind factors such as practicality and fairness. We will try to be as clear as possible about why decisions have been taken.

We understand that we cannot meet the needs of every parent and carer, but we will consider your views and act on them wherever possible and practical. Let us know if you have any questions, concerns or ideas by emailing schools.organisation@stockport.gov.uk, or by letting your school know.