



## **Parent Council Newsletter**

We are a group of parents from all three schools who meet to, not only raise much needed funds for the extras that make our childrens time at school more enjoyable and rewarding, but also to discuss and help shape decisions that affect our children and schools such as Homework policies and lunches.

Whether you have 10 mins a week to be part of our email group or more time available to attend our half termly Parent Council meeting and to volunteer to help at events – every second counts.

I have listed below just some of the topics that we have discussed this year and the difference that we “hope” we have made to our childrens education.

**Short Heath Library** – We helped to arrange the books in the library after a refurb! It meant that staff can concentrate on what they do best!

**School lunches** – We worked closely with Shires and added the option of sandwiches for children who are entitled to a free school meal and we also added Subs to the menu at Short Heath.

**Parking & Road Safety** – This is an ongoing issue and we have worked with Councillor Ian Shires and the Council to try and make the roads around our schools safer for our children. We need parents/carers to take responsibility and park and drive safely near our schools until we find a solution.

**New Federation Website** – Parent Council have worked closely with school, giving feedback at every stage of developing our new Federation website.

**Fundraising** – We have listened to your feedback and are focusing on two fundraisers a year – Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre.

**Volunteering** – We support schools with functions such as the Christmas Discos and refreshments at Sports Days. This leaves teachers free to look after our children and ensure they have as much fun as possible at these events.

Parent council meetings are normally held once a half term at either Short Heath or Lane Head. The dates are on the notice boards of all schools.

It would be lovely to see some new faces – Especially Nursery/Reception and Year 2/3 parents/carers/grand parents!! We take minutes at all meetings and work through an agenda. However, they are run informally and we respect everyone’s views and opinions.

If you aren't able to attend but would like to receive the agenda and any requests for assistance or feedback please email me at [parentcouncil@shortheathfederation.org.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@shortheathfederation.org.uk)

### **Parent Council and your Governing Body**

Our Schools have one Governing Body which oversees all three schools.

It consists of 14 Governors, which include parents and staff as well as members of the local community and church. Each of our Schools has a Link Governor who works closely with the school and reports back to the Full Governing Body.

Like the Parent Council our job is to support our schools but also to challenge them to encourage them to be the best they can be.

Parent Council is less formal and any parent, grandparent or carer is welcome to come along, enjoy a coffee and discuss ways to help and improve the school experience for all our children.

School Council performs a vital role in representing your views and raising funds for those extras our sadly budgets don't allow for.

Governors fully support our Parent Council, helping us to help you.

### **Message from Cathy Draper**

The work of our Parent Council is of paramount importance to the running of our schools. Not only do they help to raise funds, always much needed given spending cuts from central government, but they help us to get the views of parents. They represent your views. They help us in setting policies such as homework and reward and behaviour strategies. They allow me to find out what's of concern to parents and they allow me the opportunity to give full explanations as to why decisions are taken in school in the way that they are.

The more of you that are involved the better - our meetings are always fun, interesting and provide challenge to and support to the schools - in just the way that they should.

Parent council always have a good understanding of what's happening in school and why.

Being a part of parent council doesn't need to be hugely demanding of your time, as you give as much or as little as you can, but we know it makes a difference to the success of our schools and, therefore, your children.

