

## ***SHARROW SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL***



### ***Meeting of Parents held Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009***

The Governors of Sharrow School agreed to set up a 'Parent Council' where all parents/carers of children at the school could get together and meet each other to discuss ways of supporting the school. A letter was sent out regarding this last year, inviting them to the first meeting in December.

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30pm, 11 parents met up for the first 'Parent Council' meeting. With tea, coffee and an abundance of cakes we all sat down to introduce ourselves to each other and discuss how we as parents/carers can develop and support the running of a 'Parent Council' at the school.

The initial thoughts were to organise around a few activities/events as a good start to introduce everyone to the idea of a 'Parent Council'. Any events would be organised by volunteers of parents/carers (the Parent Governors roles are to be supportive in working with the school to agree dates and support the events very much within the spirit and ethos of the school as a whole). Governors would report back to the Governor meetings the progress and discussions from the Parent Council meetings.

So far the activities we are organising are:-

#### **Sharrow School Garden**

Behind the main school and next to the Music Centre building there is a plot of land that the school has just gained funding for from 'Local Food' for a small grant. Local Food is an open grants programme run by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) as an Award Partner of the Big Lottery Fund.

The funding will be used to:-

1. Build raised beds to grow vegetables and have a herb garden and hanging baskets
2. Build a composting area
3. Have a small tool shed
4. Have a rain water butt to collect water from performing arts space building
5. Employ a sessional worker for about 6 months from February 2010 to set up and run an after school vegetable growing club with parents and children and help train up other members of staff to continue to run the after school vegetable garden
6. Visit to possibly Wortley walled garden for ideas and inspiration

It is a great opportunity for children of the school to learn how to grow fruit and vegetables and for parents/carers to be involved and support this activity. There is also an opportunity to learn how to cook different recipes from what we grow.

We are hoping as it develops more parents/carers will take part in and support the garden all year round.

*Claire Fairclough (who's two children are in Y5) is the parent heading this so if anyone is interested in joining in they should contact her via the reception desk staff.*

### **Morning Social Gathering/Get Together**

A number of parents are keen to organise a regular coffee morning. It is a chance for parents/carers to meet up for a chat and have tea, coffee and cakes. It was agreed that a Friday morning would be best for this, after the reading sessions with parents/carers and children of the infants.

*Kate West (whose child is in Y4) and Maughan Pearce (who has children in Nursery and Y3) have volunteered to organise this.*

We will be advertising a Friday 'Get -Together' shortly.

## **Fundraising/Social Events**

This was seen to be a key element of the Parent Councils role and everyone at the meeting was really enthusiastic, putting forward some great ideas. Some examples were to organise some involvement around the Sharrow Festival, a sponsored walk after school around Mount Pleasant, fathers and sons football match, parents putting on a play at the school, yearly social events, promoting all the different cultures of our community, as well as organising a parents/carers evening out to the theatre.

It was agreed to start by looking at a social evening with food and a quiz.

*Safiya Saeed (whose children are in Y5 and Y6) has agreed to co-ordinate this.*

If you are interested in any of the events we are starting to put on or would like to take up and organise any of the other ideas we came up with at the meeting then please let us know.

### **The Parent Governors over viewing/supporting the Parent Council are:**

Tunweer Hussain

Lucinda Wakefield