

Stanhope Barrington C of E  
Primary School



Westcroft

Stanhope

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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Re: Relaunching our Parental Engagement Groups

As you know, our ethos at Stanhope Barrington is that we are a family school and we place great value on not only our pupil voice groups but also on our Parental Engagement Groups.

This last year has been a horrible and challenging experience for all of us and we have especially missed being able to welcome parents, carers, grandparents and other members of our school community into our school. This doesn't mean however, that we don't continue to value your support, input and feedback.

I thought that this was an opportune time to relaunch some of our existing Parental Engagement Groups and also to introduce some new and exciting ideas. I am conscious that there have been a number of parents who are new to our school and due to lockdown may not even be aware of the different ways in which you can become part our school life.

### Existing Parental Engagement Groups:

#### The Friends of Stanhope Barrington

This group is accountable to the PTA (which is being relaunched – please see below) and their remit is to generate fund raising ideas, organise and run events and to ensure a sustainable approach to maintaining their core aim. Their core aim is to raise enough money to be able to subsidise three educational visits per year per child to the value of £7 per trip. This means that their target is to raise approximately £3,500 per annum. Historically this has been achieved through events such as Harry Potter Night, Bingo, Easter Fairs and our amazing annual Summer Fete.

**Co-ordinator:** Changes depending upon the event

**Meetings:** Ad Hoc but a minimum of 3 per year and possibly more in the run up to a big event

**Remit:** To organise fund raising events to subsidise educational visits and trips

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### The Grants and Funding Team

This is a small group of parents and their remit is to explore grants and funding opportunities which will support the school's funding priorities. Members of this group identify appropriate grants, complete grant applications (in conjunction with myself) and seek to exploit any funding opportunities which will benefit our children. For example, this group have successfully secured funding for teaching resources in History and funding for scientists to run workshops during our annual STEM week.

**Co-ordinator:** Paul Leadbitter (Parent)

**Meetings:** One per term

**Remit:** To identify and apply for grants to support the school

### **New Parental Engagement Groups:**

#### The Fellowship of Stanhope Barrington

This group is to replace the traditional PTA (Parent Teachers Association). We have recently adopted a formal constitution and are now registered with Parent Kind – a national organisation which supports school-home associations across the country. The remit of this group is to be the legal body which ensures compliance and governance of any activity carried out by the Fellowship or sub-groups such as The Friends of Stanhope Barrington. This group has only just been established and we desperately need members to join in order to make the group quorate (legal). One of the main tasks we would like to look into asap is the possibility of registering as a charity. All parents and staff are automatically members of the group but we would very much like named people who are able to commit to attending the AGM and formal meetings.

**Co-ordinator:** Angela Johnson (Parent and Academy Councillor)

**Meetings:** One AGM (Annual General Meeting per annum) plus two meetings one each term

**Remit:** To develop effective relationships between staff, parents and others associated with the school and to engage in activities which support the school and advance the education of all pupils.

#### Stanhope Barrington's Website User Group

We are looking for volunteers to take part in our newly created Website User Group. We are incredibly proud of our school website and have recently reviewed its layout to reflect our move to Learning Zones. We would like to establish a group of parents who will take part in one session per term where we will ask you to navigate around the website to find specific information and then ask you to provide us with feedback on the ease of navigation and quality of information. You don't need to be IT savvy – in fact it would be helpful to have some volunteers who are specifically not used to using a website as they will be able to give us constructive feedback on how intuitive it is to use the website. We would welcome constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement from this user group. Our website is our shop window and is the first place parents go to for information; the first place prospective new parents go to before deciding where to send their children and the first place Ofsted and other inspectors will look before visiting our school. We want our website to reflect our core ethos and values and really celebrate all that is outstanding about our school.

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**Co-ordinator:** Sarah Ingwersen (Website Administrator)

**Meetings:** One per term but can be done at home, virtually in your own time

**Remit:** To provide user feedback to the Website Administrator

We are an inclusive school and would really welcome new members to any of the above groups. We value different perspectives and ideas and it is essential that new parents of younger children feel they can get involved so that there is some succession planning for when our older children leave for secondary school and their parents leave us too.

If you are already an existing member of The Friends of Stanhope Barrington or The Grants and Funding Team you do not need to respond to this letter and your membership of those groups will continue.

If however, you would like to join any of the above groups as a new member please let me know.

If you have any questions, would like further information or would like to register to join any of our Parental Engagement Groups please contact me via the school office before Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

Many thanks for your continued support for our school.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs D Cross*

Mrs D Cross  
Head Teacher

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