

Autumn 2017 Update

Autumn 2017 news and updates

Parent Champions

A consultation event about parent champions held on May 18th was attended by 15 schools. Schools told us about the huge untapped potential within their parent body that they are currently unable to develop.

They thought it would be invaluable for PEN to provide training for parent champions. They all knew of parents that would want to be involved in the training and would benefit from the structure the project would provide.

PEN has applied for funding for the project.



Backtrack on funding cuts

Congratulations to all those who campaigned against funding cuts in schools!

"Schools in England are being promised an extra 1.3 bn over two years as the government responded to pressure from campaigns over funding shortages" (BBC news July 2017).

Many parents and staff from PEN schools were actively involved in working together on campaigns – another example of the potential impact of engaging parents.



New venture: working directly with parents' groups

Ethiopian Family Learning Group

PEN has applied for funding to run family learning sessions specifically for Ethiopian families. We hope these sessions would help us to develop new materials appropriate for BME groups.

Dr Janet Goodall from Bath University gave out certificates at the final evaluation session for Phase 4 schools who have been implementing the national research project "Engaging Parents Effectively".



Janet is gathering qualitative data about the impact of the project. She is a leading researcher and speaker nationally about parental engagement.



New PEN website

We are working on a new website over the summer. We'll be launching the new-look website in the autumn term!

Moving Up to High School



Five Primary Schools in the Ripley cluster in Derbyshire have been very successfully using the Moving Up resources this summer term with their Year 6 classes including getting input from outside speakers on road safety, e-safety and the rights and responsibilities of teenagers.

Interested? Training and case study will be available in the Spring Term.

Any feedback on our new tip sheets?

The three new tip sheets contain advice for parents on wellbeing, including **getting support to help your child to be happy**, **supporting your child's wellbeing**, and **self esteem**.

Please contact us with any suggested amendments.



Get in touch...

email: emma@penetwork.co.uk tel: 0161 860 5039
web: www.penetwork.co.uk twitter: @PENetworkUK

Training (Available to all Primary Schools)

KS2 Family Detective Reading Project

£150 (£135 PEN Members) for up to 2 places on the training, resources & teacher's notes.



Introduction to the resources and training on running the project in school. Year 3, 4 or 5 children and their families work together on an exciting challenge, developing their comprehension, inference and questioning skills.

Thu 28 Sep, 9.30-12 at the Windrush Centre, M16 7WD

Please book by 18 Sep



Senior Staff Briefing and Consultation Meeting (Primary & Special Schools)

FREE to all schools

Key tips on managing parental engagement; discussion about working with parents on health and well-being; meeting the needs of BME communities; parents' understanding of safeguarding; opportunities and resources; sharing good practice and current issues.

Fri 29 Sep, 10-11.30 at Martenscroft Nursery, M15 6PA

Please book by 19 Sep

Building support from your parents and communities

£60 (£50 PEN Members)

Recent campaigning has shown how important it is to galvanise the support of your families and communities. This can include fundraising, voluntary work, parents' groups or helping schools access free or cheap resources.

Come and get tips and share ideas.

Tue 14 Nov, 1.00-3.30 at the Windrush Centre, M16 7WD

Please book by 28 Sep

Nursery Home Learning Project

£199 (£400 including Playclub 1 phonics resources)

Training on running workshops and home activities across the year. Tips on engaging parents, running workshops, supporting home learning and evaluating the work. Workshop plans and 16 home activities including maths activities and activities on understanding the world. Optional Playclub activities on developing phonics.

Wed 11 Oct, 1-3.30 and one more date tba at the Windrush Centre, M16 7WD

"It's been very successful and had a massive impact on the progress of the children involved.

It's just right for targeted children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

It's been one of the best interventions we've done".

Headteacher, Irk Valley Primary School on the Nursery Home Learning Project

Reception Home Learning Project

£350 (includes a set of Playclub 2 bags costing £259)



Special price for schools who can help us further develop our reception resources.

Training on running workshops and home activities across the year. Tips on engaging parents, running workshops, supporting home learning and evaluating the work. Training on using Playclub 2 resources – 8 bags of imaginative resources to support phonics in phase 2.

Trial reception materials for maths, understanding the world and other areas of learning.

Thu 12 Oct, 9.30-12 and one more date tba at the Windrush Centre, M16 7WD

Please book by 2 Oct

Managing conflict and having the difficult conversation

£70 (£60 PEN Members)

This session will look at how staff can develop strategies and confidence to successfully manage situations when parents may be aggressive or upset. It is aimed at any teaching staff or staff working on reception.

Trainer: Janet Davies

Thu 16 Nov, 9.30-12 at the Windrush Centre, M16 7WD

Please book by 6 Nov

FREE to PEN Member schools

Family Support Worker Network *for all staff working with vulnerable families*

£60 (FREE to PEN Members)

Opportunity to share ideas and best practice of working with families to improve learning outcomes. National updates including updated guidelines on safeguarding.

Wed 18 Oct, 9.30-12 at the Windrush Centre, M16 7WD

Please book by 8 Oct

Network Meetings

£60 (FREE to PEN Members)

Opportunity to share good practice and current issues. Further details available nearer the time.

Central/South: Wed 1 Nov 9.15-12 at Acacias Community Primary, M19 2WW

North: Thu 5 Oct, 9.15-12 at Cheetham CE Community Academy, M8 9FR

Parental Engagement Co-ordinators' Network (for Primary & Special schools)

£60 (FREE to PEN Members)

Experienced co-ordinators sharing how they have developed their work. Further details available nearer the time.

Thu 9 Nov, 1.15-3.30 at the Windrush Centre, M16 7WD

Please book by 31 Oct

Last term's network meetings discussed...

- Holding meetings about safeguarding for parents – Quality First run workshops for parents (email sharonedwards@qualityfirst.uk.com)
- Lisa Taylor from Martenscroft presented on workshops for parents on supporting boys to learn (for further information see www.boysdevelopmentproject.org.uk)
- Sleep and wellbeing issues. PEN will develop a Tip sheet on sleep over the summer.