

Bisley C of E School – Celebrating Family Learning Month



Organisation

Bisley C of E Primary School, Surrey
Heath Confederation of Schools

Target Group(s)

Parents of children in Key Stage 1 and 2

Context

This year, to mark 10 years of celebrations, Family Learning Week became a whole month with the Family Learning Festival 2008 in October. Bisley C of E Primary School put a fun spin on the festival and decided to offer parents the opportunity to learn alongside their children in the classroom.

Action planned

Week commencing the 13th Oct 2008 was selected for teachers to provide some sessions for parents to learn alongside their child. Teachers were encouraged to deliver a session they felt confident teaching and topics ranged from design technology, art, cooking, poetry, dance, ICT and music. Most teachers ran four sessions spread throughout the week - some morning, some afternoon – all within school hours.

The School set a limit of 8 parents per session and administered the bookings so that numbers could be managed.

The School worked hard to ensure that the appropriate level of planning went into the running of a successful event of this size by giving teachers sufficient planning time well in advance. Promotion of the event was also key and all staff worked hard to engage parents using a combination of information in the school newsletter plus a direct approach to parents on the school gate.

Outcomes and Impact

For Foundation and KS1 the take up was excellent with 100% attendance by parents across the five classes.

For years 5 and 6 approximately 40% of parents attended a session of learning alongside their child.

Feedback:

Parent: The School gathered informal, anecdotal feedback which was very positive.

Staff: School staff agreed that although October wasn't the best time to run such a large event it had been a fun and worthwhile activity to engage with families. It was also observed that it was a varied group of parents who attended the sessions including some traveller mums.

Children: The views of children were sought through the School Council and they came up with the idea of continuing to welcome parents in by allowing them to participate one a month in 'Golden Time' (½ hr free time / free choice for children who have earned it).

Next Steps

Based on the superb feedback from this event Bisley would consider running another similar event in the hope that as many parents would attend. The School acknowledges that an event in February or the Summer term may be preferable as it is a quieter time of year and would give teachers more time to plan activities. Additionally the school is looking at ways of engaging parents to help with some of the organisation of such a large event.

As a follow on from the Family Learning week the school ran some workshops on "How to help you child read". These sessions started at 9am and covered KS1 and KS2, attracting approx 70 attendees. The School also provided a handout that went to everyone, regardless of whether they had attended. The success of these workshops has led to a literacy focus that will be repeated again in Feb 09.