

## PARENT AND FAMILY BUTTERFLIES

Butterfly	Impacting on	Description	Impact
26	Family	<p><b>POSTCARDS/LETTERS TO UNCLES/AUNTS/GRANDPARENTS</b></p> <p>Children have a task to write and explain some aspect of school life to a 'significant other' who is important in their life – usually a grandparent. It is sent through the post and is intended to give pleasure to them and help children practise their handwriting skills.</p>	<p>The school, which serves a fairly well-off community, reports that the teacher who tried this with Y5, was confident that it had impact and extended the practice to writing to others for different purposes – including people in the local community, especially the elderly population. In the first task she had one child looked after and preceded the session by conversations that established that the child had a significant other. Subsequent discussions of this butterfly with other very differently placed schools uncovered one who made it a beneficial feature for children whose families originated in another country and whose letter might be in that country's language.</p>
10	Parent	<p><b>POSTCARDS POSTED HOME</b></p> <p>Sometimes letters home get lost and while certificates proudly taken home have huge impact, a postcard, carefully designed and sent through the post to the home address seemed to carry a greater personal impact and was regarded as special by the recipients. The school reported that they were deeply appreciated and often drew unsolicited thanks from proud parents.</p>	<p>Again, as with butterfly nine, any unusual way to involve parents positively is to be treasured. The fact that this appeared a random act of thoughtfulness added to the impact – as did the relative rareness of getting personal mail in these electronic days!</p> <p><b><i>A variant on this from another school involves phone calls home, another unusual experience It so often signifies trouble, so a phone call providing good news is such a welcome experience for parents.</i></b></p>
14	Parent Pupil - behaviour	<p><b>'INTEGRITY IN THE COMMUNITY'</b></p> <p>Cards are given to shopkeepers, hairdressers and police – everyone external to the school you can think of. They send them to the school saying children have been caught 'doing the right thing'. It has a huge impact not just on parents and children but on the wider community's view of the school.</p>	<p>The impact on interactions between school and community are obvious. It is a part of school improvement easy to overlook and is a simple way of helping just marginally but probably with very large subliminal impact.</p>

Butterfly	Impacting on	Description	Impact
20	Parent	<p><b>RAFFLE TICKETS TO BOOST ATTENDANCE AT PARENTS' EVENINGS</b>  A school decided to boost attendance by showing the children the prizes and then sending raffle tickets home asking them to tell their parents. (They also put it on the school web site) The prizes were drawn at the parents' evening.</p>	<p>The school reported that it has had an impact on attendance. They also realised that there were other ways to boost parental support and involvement. They are planning to organise one with a fish and chips supper.</p>
21	Parent	<p><b>MATHS AND ENGLISH CAFÉ SESSIONS FOR PARENTS</b>  Starting in the autumn term when optimism is high – and energy levels ! – organise a whole class parents and children session in the hall with coffee and biscuits provided. In the independent activity part of the lesson parents and children join together to complete task provided.  Follow-up with thank you postcard home and lots of family activity tasks if families choose.</p>	<p>It is notoriously difficult to get parents, particularly those from challenged families into school. In our busy world where the internet and fast and frequent communication is so easy, it is all too easy for parents not to give the face-to-face time that is so valuable in child development. So one can easily see why the school was keen to find ways to encourage productive family time.</p>
22	Parent staff	<p><b>PHONE CALLS HOME IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE AUTUMN TERM</b>  A class teacher decided to try out this idea. She phoned each child's parents to introduce herself and ask about the child's likes and interests, in a fairly open-ended conversation. She also outlined what the class would be doing during the year.</p>	<p>Unsurprisingly the parents were incredibly grateful and impressed and inclined to view partnership with the teacher in a positive light. The teacher reported that attendance at parents' evenings improved and relationships over subsequent issues both good and bad were easier. The school has subsequently encouraged new teachers to adopt that practice.</p>
23	Parent	<p><b>PARENTS SEE HOMEWORK OF THE WEEK</b>  A school organises a display in the entrance lobby or a window or the Hall of 'Homeworks of the Week'...that is to say examples from each class in Key Stage 2 of pieces of completed tasks so that parents can see them.</p>	<p>This idea cropped up more than once. But there were different variations on motives! One said that they displayed it in a very visible display window which can be seen outside the school, while another had it in the Assembly Hall so that when parents came in for 'Celebration assemblies' where their children might receive a certificate, they could see children's work. One head said she had the best piece of work for the week in her office and always drew attention to it.</p>

Butterfly	Impacting on	Description	Impact
33	Parent Pupil - emotional	<p><b>HANDS FREE PHONE CALLS HOME</b></p> <p>The head has a habit of ringing a parent whenever a child appears sent by a teacher to show their good work. She then uses the 'hands free' button so that the parent can hear the child telling the head about the child's achievement.</p>	The head reports that it is a surprise since it only happens rarely and that the parents love it.
37	Parent	<p><b>PARENTS READING IN THE MORNING AS THEY DROP THEIR CHILDREN OFF</b></p> <p>The head with some volunteer staff who were willing to try it out, encouraged parents to accompany their child into the classroom every Friday so that they could sit alongside and either read or listen to their children reading.</p>	Of course not all parents took part but a fair number did and appreciated the relaxed atmosphere they encountered. Of course the school opened early so that this could happen.