



University of Sussex

To the parents/carers of children in **Marley** class

My name is Victoria Sparkes and I am at Thakeham Primary School as a Student Teacher in Reception Class. I am in my final year at the University of Sussex and have been placed in Beatles class. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the children and teaching staff. I am now starting work on my final dissertation, a small – scale research project which I will be carrying out at school.

The research will explore what motivates children in Key Stage 2 to participate in Physical Education lessons and to consider the benefits to their self – esteem, confidence and wellbeing. I consider physical education to be an important part of children’s development and I am planning to focus on what motivates children to fully participate in PE lessons and to compare this with children’s motivation to participate in extracurricular sports. I am interested in finding out whether the Key Stage 2 teachers feel that positive engagement in PE has an effect in the classroom on teamwork, group activities and confidence.

I plan to ask the children to complete a questionnaire about their motivation for sports both in school and extracurricular, whether they enjoy PE lessons and how they feel about sports at school. I also plan to interview the Key Stage 2 teachers and to observe one of their PE lessons.

Trainee teachers have already agreed to a clear set of ethical guidelines set by the University of Sussex and have created an information sheet agreed by the head teacher. Both are available from me if required. **In summary, this is an ‘opt out’ process so you need not do anything if you are happy for your child to be a part of the process. If this is not the case then do let Will McDonald know via the email address below and by Thursday 28th November and he will communicate with me to ensure your child is not included in any questionnaires or the observation carried out.**

All children in Key Stage 2 will be invited to take part to ensure that the full school community is represented and that the study is not focused on just one gender or ethnicity. This helps make the outcomes and data more valid. We will ask for the children’s consent and they will be aware they can withdraw at any time. You too have the right to withdraw your child at any time. I believe that pupils and teachers should benefit from the process.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this note.

Best Wishes

Victoria Sparkes

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