



Meltham CE Primary School
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Headteacher Mr P Gibbins

Meltham CE Dads Club meeting

Dear parents and carers (but today, specifically dads, grandads and male carers),

I am looking to explore the possibility of launching a Dads Club at Meltham CE for a once monthly meet up, starting one Saturday in November here at school. The aim of our sessions would be to allow children and their dads/grandads/male carers to spend time having fun and joining activities together.

I would like to invite dads, grandads and male carers who might be interested, to an initial meeting at **7pm** on **Monday 13th October** here in School. The purpose of the meeting is simply to gauge interest with the purpose of starting the ball rolling. (If dads or partners are unavailable on the 13th, mums and grans are of course welcome to come along and offer dad's help!)

Children have never had so many opportunities, choices, distractions and possibilities available to them than they have now. This, at a point in their development when they can be at their loneliest; when emotional health and behavioural difficulties are on the increase and when many lack wider positive male role models in their formative years.

The meeting is a chance to explore possible activities and preferred times. I have invited Scott Leonard to attend the meeting. Scott is the director of the charity DadsKidsClub and has successfully applied for a grant to help establish our club here in Meltham. He has experience in setting up similar clubs in schools across London and if we are successful in getting ours up and running, it would be the first of its kind outside London. Please take a moment to look at the charity site at <https://www.dadskids.club/>

My simple hope is to involve more dads, grandads and male carers in children's upbringing to help address three significant challenges:

- 1 Providing more positive male role models for children. Statistics show that during the primary school years, there is the least male involvement in their children's lives; at a time when they are crucially shaping beliefs, values and characters that will inform the rest of their lives.
- 2 Providing an opportunity for men to support other men. Men face their own challenges, as Gareth Southgate reminded us in 2025: sadly, suicide remains the biggest killer of men under 50 years old in the UK.
- 3 Providing more opportunities for experiential learning, both academically and pastorally.



*From little sparkles to shining stars,
we Stand Out, Break Out and Shout Out, Growing the confidence to make a difference*



By inviting dads, grandads and male carers to enjoy regular curated activities, conversations and adventures with their children, I think that game-changing things can happen. Not all of the children in our school have positive male role models in their lives at home; more worryingly, negative male role models are increasingly in the public eye. Dads Club can be an opportunity to spend positive time with our own children and to offer other opportunities they do not currently have.

As well as a teacher, I am also (first and foremost) a dad. The ease of access to inappropriate online content; the effects of increased social media and smartphone access for primary children; and a national rise in misogynistic attitudes is concerning.

I am asking dads, grandads and male carers who are interested in developing a safe and fun space for our children to meet and play. As well as a safe space for dads and male carers to share their joys and troubles, to come along to **the meeting on Monday 13th October at 7pm** to explore how we might do this together.

ATTENDING THE MEETING IS NOT A COMMITMENT TO BE INVOLVED.

Many thanks

Phil and Meltham CE Primary School

97% of dads and male carers believe that if every primary school in the UK had a dads kids club it would create BETTER OUTCOMES for dads, children and schools

A Dads Kids Club survey. May 2025



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