

## **Minutes of the Solebay Academy Council meeting May 25 2018.**

Beth updated parents on the issues raised at previous meeting:

**School extension:** Janet confirmed a letter would be going out today informing parents that, based on parental feedback, she is reducing the number of additional pupils from 467 to 402. The application is to be submitted next week.

**Stage blocks:** These are being purchased by the music team and should be in place soon

**Sports and PE:** Sports provision will be increased to two hours a week from September. Janet to discuss with Mia what activities will be offered and inform parents.

**Science:** This will be taught weekly from Y1 to 6 rather than in half term blocks from September.

**Nursery:** This has now opened with 20 pupils

**Playtime:** All year groups from Y2-6 during the summer term will now go off premises at lunch time, making use of Mile End Park.

**Parental access to classrooms:** Following concerns raised that some parents felt they didn't have enough access, recent parent teacher consultations took place in classrooms. There was also a week of parental engagement in which parents were invited into classrooms for workshops.

**Parent social events:** Beth to arrange a parents social event at the school on July 4.

**Sports day:** The hope is to use Mile End Leisure Centre again.

## **AGENDA**

### **Timings of parental engagement weeks.**

One parent complained about the fact parental workshops for all years took place in the same week, making it hard if you have more than one child at school. There was also concern that not enough notice was given to enable parents to take time off work.

**Action:** Janet to look at whether such workshops could be arranged over two weeks instead and in any instance to give parents two weeks notice of future engagement sessions.

### **Child safety procedures.**

Concern has been raised, following a recent incident in Y3, over school procedure when children are hurt by another pupil during school time. Janet clarified that the policy is assess such incidents individually and decide what new safeguards need to be put in place and that in this instance the SEND team are working with the family involved. She confirmed that at present parents are not necessarily informed as a matter of course.

**Action:** Janet to ensure the school will proactively contact parents when their children have been affected by pupil behaviour to communicate the school's response.

### **Letters to parents.**

Some of these are not getting to parents. There is also a more general concern about the lack of communication between the school and parents regarding school events. Janet confirmed that all children given letters at end of day are encouraged to pass them on but accepted that some letters

were still going astray.

**Action:** Janet to look into sending a text message when letters are sent out so that parents know to look and to posting weekly letters on a notice board in the school foyer. She also agreed to investigate setting up an email database so that letters could be sent out that way, possibly to start in September, and whether the text message system could be amended to allow texts to be sent to both parents rather than just the nominated one

## **AOB**

### **School uniforms**

A parent asked whether Solebay should have a uniform specific to the school, in particular a jumper with a Solebay logo on it, possibly designed by the children. It was also asked whether school book bags could carry a strap.

**Action:** Janet to consult with the school board about creating jumpers with Solebay logos on it that would be available for parents to buy on a voluntary basis. The school will also look into getting book bags with straps after the current stock of book bags runs out.

### **Parent coffee mornings.**

Attendance has dropped off severely in recent months. One parent suggested that to boost attendance, perhaps coffee mornings could become more of an event, possibly by featuring information about local events etc.

**Action:** Janet suggested seeing how the next half term goes and will then look into better ways of utilising these meetings

### **Packed lunches on school trips**

Some school children who bring in packed lunches are having contents confiscated on the basis they are not healthy. Also, some teachers have been observed drinking fizzy drinks and chewing gum in front of pupils.

**Action:** Janet to clarify school policy on packed lunches in a letter to parents and to remind staff not to eat fizzy drinks or chew gum while teaching.