

## **ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING FEB 8th, 2019**

### **Academy update:**

1. School choir Y3-6 performed at the O2 on Feb 1. The event was deemed a huge success.
2. Additional Y6 Sats teaching on Saturday mornings has commenced. Y6 also now start an hour earlier, at 8am.
3. Assessment point 2 will take place end of February. Parent teacher consultations will take place towards end of that half term. Final assessments for Y6 will take place in May and in June for remaining year groups.
4. Teachers and parents have been reminded about park arrangements. All teachers now have a lollipop.
5. From Sep, all nursery spaces will be half days because of funding cuts across the borough.
6. The application to increase pupil numbers to 420 was turned down. Numbers will stay at a maximum of 350.
7. Attendance and punctuality has not been as good as it could have been. Some parents are taking unauthorised holidays; some children have been off with illness and some children have a recurring issue. A focus week is to take place next week with incentives and the school are working with families where children are repeatedly late or absent. This week all classes have been under 90%. This can prompt an Ofsted inspection, and lead to schools being downgraded.

### **Agenda**

#### **1. School photographs.**

Various complaints have been received concerning the quality, with some parents even saying they cannot recognise their children. A new company is in the process of being chosen.

#### **2. Hi vis vests.**

New hi vis vests with Solebay on the back have been ordered for children to use on educational visits.

#### **3. New lollipops.**

Concern was raised that, while these are a great idea, they are quite heavy, and pose a potential risk to children while being carried to the park.

**ACTION:** This feedback is to be given to the marketing company that produced them.

#### **4. School jumpers.**

New jumpers with logos have been discussed with the support of school pupils. They should be available for parents to purchase at cost, should they wish to do so, from September. Janet reaffirmed that school uniform is advisory and strongly encouraged but not compulsory. She noted that the school council is also in favour in principle of a school uniform.

#### **5. Drop off.**

There are still a few families bringing children to the school instead of to the park in

the morning. This blocks up the pavement and causes a safety issue. Janet reiterated that lining up at the park encourages in pupils the right frame of mind to start the school day. Some parents are still adding children to the line after it has left the park. This is discouraged but cannot be banned because there is a risk parents will become confrontational. Janet has been meeting with parents who repeatedly bring their children to school late.

## **6. Lobby area.**

Consultations on redecorating the lobby area are ongoing, with the aim to decorate over the Easter holidays. Paul has arranged a suggestion box to be put up as an additional way for parents to contact the Academy Council.

## **AOB.**

### **1. Nursery recruitment.**

It was noted that Solebay nursery has been left off the Tower Hamlets list of nursery providers. It was asked what the school is doing in terms of recruitment. There have been leaflet drops and. Janet affirmed it was her preference for all nursery places to be filled.

ACTION: More leaflets to be left in children's centres and surgeries, and local parenting groups to be contacted.

### **2. Library area.**

This is to be phased in, in the lobby area, after redecoration. The school council is to be asked for their thoughts on how the library might be run. One parent said that her child in Y5 isn't getting weekly books from school. Janet says this will be taken up with the teacher in question. All children have a reading record and this should be filled in each week by parents. There is also shared reading in all classes every day, and that reading is the main focus of the school day.

ACTION. The school to look into the summer reading programme run by the Ideas store for the summer holiday and whether it might be implemented for Solebay pupils.

### **3. Art.**

The next art and design week will be held the first week back after half term. One parent requested more large science, art and construction projects, to enable the children to get more experience in brainstorming ideas.

ACTION: The school to investigate linking this year's Easter homework with the relevant topic for that half term.

### **4.IT**

It was asked how much IT time children receive. IT is taught weekly and the school follows the national curriculum on this.

ACTION: The school will provide parents with a summary of the IT teaching programme.

### **5. Year 5 residential.**

It was suggested that the requested parental contribution for these trips is very high. The cost is £140 for two nights' accommodation plus all activities. Janet confirmed that the cost is halved for people on benefits and that there is also a weekly

payment instalment plan for those that want it. No child has ever not gone on these trips because they can't afford it.

#### **6. School competitions.**

The recent poetry competition was highly praised. It was agreed more competitions would be a good thing. A spelling competition and a public speaking competition are planned.

#### **7.Spanish update.**

MFL was introduced in Sep for Y5. The idea is for Spanish to be taught as part of key stage 2 for years 3-6. It was trialled during the first term, but there have been teething problems owing to the departure of Y5 teacher Sophie at Christmas. The new programme should be up and running from the third week back after half term.

ACTION: Janet to talk to teachers to ensure Spanish teaching is being implemented.

#### **8.Curriculum**

The letters detailing the curriculum for the spring term weren't sent out in January.

ACTION: Letters detailing the new curriculum for this term to be sent out.

#### **9. Lunchtime clubs**

There are currently reading clubs for high ability pupils and a lunchtime club for children who need extra behavioural support. These are currently at capacity. Lunchtime clubs are currently provided based on need. After school clubs are provided instead to meet children's interests. There is a hockey club planned for Y5.

ACTION: The school to investigate building better links with Queen Mary University, whose students might be able to provide free sports clubs and creative writing clubs for pupils.

#### **10. O2 concert.**

There were problems with pick up, with some parents ignoring the school's designated pick up point and grabbing children straight away after the concert. Janet restated that the pick up procedure was established for the safety of the children and requested that parents stick to the arrangements. Some parents were abusive to teachers which caused great distress. Those parents have been invited into the school so that this can be discussed.