

# Academy Council Meeting 14 October 2021

## Academy update for Academy council meeting

### Updates for parents/carers from Janet

- All pupils returned to school well and settled in September.
- Focus on pupils and staff well being - everyone has coped well and settled well back into school life
- Read, Write is a focus for early years and key stage one. We have had a recent review in October from the RW development team - Solebay phonics teaching and reading is strong - there is 1:1 support in place for pupils who need it.
- Recent History review from senior leaders from the Trust. - Feedback is good - pupils could talk about what they had learnt and expressed their interest in the subject
- There has been a lot of work across the Trust on Diversity and how this is taught across all areas of the curriculum.
- We will end staggered start and finish times from the 1st November 2021
- YN will line up in Park for 8.50 - 9.00 start and 3.15 to collect from the Park
- YR-Y6 will line up in the Park at 8.45 - for a 9.00 start and to collect from the Park at 3.30pm.
- Most year groups have had 'Meet the Teacher' meetings - it was great to see parents in school at these meetings.
- Recent interval review of our educational provision - the feedback the school received was brilliant. It was recognised that the school was 'outstanding' and that we are providing an excellent teaching environment where pupils enjoy attending and thrive. Thank you to all of our leadership team and teachers for their consistent approach to the teaching and learning at Solebay.
- School council met this week - they would like more after school clubs. Do we have any parent/carer volunteers who would be willing to run a club? Cookery or Arts and Crafts or Drama?

Thank you to all parents and carers for their support and understanding during the start of the term.

### Academy Update from Janet

All pupils have returned and settled in well. There has been a real focus on wellbeing throughout the school, while Read Write is a key focus for Early Years and KST1. A recent internal review concluded that Read Write is a strength of the school and additional one to one support is being provided for pupils who need it. It also concluded that the school is providing an outstanding learning environment and that all pupils enjoy their learning. There has been a further focus on diversity, and the school is looking at how it can be integrated more fully into the curriculum.

From Nov 1, Drop Off and Pick Up times will return to normal (8.45 am and 3.30pm). Nursery will remain 8.50am and 3.15pm. All teachers will carry lollipops.

All parents have been invited to Meet the Teacher meetings, the first time parents have been into the building for a couple of years!

The School Council had their first meeting of the new school year and have requested more after school clubs. They have suggested Arts and Crafts, Drama and Cookery but would welcome more suggestions. Teacher availability for after school clubs is currently at capacity but if any parent would like to volunteer to run one, they would be met with

open arms. Anyone interested should contact Janet.  
Thanks to all parents for their understanding during what has been a tricky 18 months.

## **Agenda**

Musical instrument lessons update  
Janet is talking to Holly who manages music across the London schools. It's taking a while to organise but Janet is hopeful lessons for interested pupils can start after half term.

## **Daily mile**

Janet said the School Council also brought this up. Reba is looking to reinstate it, probably once a week for all year groups, in the second week back after half term. Generally the school feel it to be a positive contribution to pupils' learning.

## **AOB.**

## **School dinners**

A parent requested an update. Janet said that they are definitely improving. All children are now eating in the school halls and have access to hot plates. Pupils have been involved in the designing of the new three week menu and have offered feedback. Claire had a meeting at the end of July with Chartwells' nutrition team who confirmed all menus meet government guidelines on nutritional value. The quality and taste of the meals continue to be monitored.

## **Christmas shows**

There are plans to reintroduce Christmas shows, possibly across key stage groups, in some form this December.

## **Assemblies with parents/carers**

Parents/carers will be slowly invited back into school to attend assemblies as the year continues, although infection rates will be closely monitored. On that point, Janet confirmed there had been no Covid related school closures since September, although government regulations mean class groups no longer need to be sent home. There has been only one confirmed child case in the school since September. Janet reminded parents to lateral flow test their children straight away if they displayed symptoms.

## **Reading tests**

Janet confirmed that every child on Read Write has six weekly assessments to move them through the reading programme. The children also answer questions each week on the book they are reading in class. There is no library in the school because of the limited space but all classrooms have book corners or book shelves in the corridor. Children are encouraged to read at home and books are available to take home. Reading is taught every day and considered a strength of the school. One parent suggested a reading programme she had heard about at another school and agreed to find out more information to relay to Janet.

## **Swimming**

Swimming lessons for Y5 and Y6 are going very well and parents are very happy with the intensive approach. Janet pointed out that Mile End Leisure Centre is offering free swimming lessons during half term and that a link will go out in the newsletter and via text message on Friday (Oct 15).

**ENDS**