

SOLEBAY PRIMARY ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 2022

Update from Janet

SATS

Y6 and Y5 are working hard for their SATS which will take place in May. Results will go to the local authority and to the DofE but there will be no comparison league tables this year because of the pandemic. Children should not feel the need for additional tutoring outside that offered by the school, which includes three early mornings a week and five mornings during the Easter holidays. Ranjeni reports that progress in English and Maths has been very strong.

SWIMMING

Y5 and 6 are having weekly swimming lessons, and there will be an intensive swimming course for a week and a half in May following SATS. More information to come.

DESIGN AND TECH WEEK/PUPIL VOICE

Y5 and Y6 made vehicles with alarms which were particularly impressive. Mention was also made of the Pupil Voice piece in the weekly newsletter – a slot in which Y6 pupils decide what to write about and which has been a hit among pupils and parents/carers.

KS1

The school has taken in considerable extra pupils this year, notably in Y1. Many of these children are from countries other than England but nearly all of them are now accessing the full curriculum. Those in need of extra support are receiving extra phonics and speed sound sessions twice a week. All new pupils with little or no English are now talking in full sentences and are able to communicate with their peers and adults.

EARLY YEARS

The topic this term has been New Life. There has been a delivery of ducklings. Pupils can watch eggs incubate before hatching into ducklings, which will then remain in the class for a week and a half. A new learning programme, Tapestry, which enables parents to access what their children are learning, has been set up and is now working following a few teething problems.

AOB

SCHOOL DINNERS

A new chef has been in place since the last meeting and Janet believes school dinners have greatly improved. A new menu is coming in after Easter, which will hopefully replace some of the meals that children seem not to like, notably shepherd's pie. It is thought many of the problems with school dinners are due to poor training for staff. The catering contract is going out to tender in September.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

An agreed program for school visits now takes place across all Paradigm schools. Y6 will continue to have a two night residential in the summer and Y4 a one night residential in June. More details on plans for Y5 will be forthcoming. Y4 will also have a formal dinner in a restaurant, and Y3 will have a family meal also in a restaurant. Y2 will have an adventure day in the park and an overnight stay in school. There are beach trips planned for nursery and reception.

PARENT/CARER PAYMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Since the introduction of Pay360, contributions have fallen to less than 50%. Some parents/carers are struggling to pay via Pay360, which is not very easy to negotiate: it's not clear on the webpage, for instance, what individual parents owe. Thanjima is to look into making this easier. More effort is needed to support parents/carers who are struggling to pay, perhaps by offering them the chance to pay with cash. School reserves are not as robust as they were because of the pandemic nor have there been summer and winter fairs which traditionally raised money for school trips.

SUMMER FAIR

Discussions are to be had on what might happen this year. The summer picnic was a success in 2019; it was suggested a meeting be held early next term to discuss ideas. One suggestion is to coincide with the Jubilee.

SPORTS DAY

There will be a sports day at Mile End Stadium this year organised by Mia. Pupils will participate in individual activities during the day, with parents/carers possibly invited to races at the day's end. Y6 will be going to the Highland Games in Ipswich, which might replace their sports day.

YOUNG VOICES

Info on tickets and dates to be given to parents next term.

MUSIC LESSONS

There has been full uptake for the free music lessons offered by the school and everyone who wanted to take part has been able to do so. The Trust will continue to pay for lessons for the rest of this academic year. It was agreed it would be preferable to find a way of

continuing the lessons beyond that date, possibly by asking parents/carers to pay for it, or finding alternative methods of funding.

KARATE AND HOCKEY

There has been a good uptake for these clubs but one parent requested more information on where and when the clubs take place.

RECEPTION NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER

It is likely that there will only be 1 class for Reception in September.

PUPIL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE SUMMER TERM

The aim is to repeat the pupil assessments from 2019 in which parents/carers were invited into the hall to look at their children's work before talking to teachers. Beth also mentioned again how lovely the artwork on the interior staircases looks, and that it would be nice for parents/carers to be given the opportunity to see it given the painting was completed just before lockdown.

FLOWER PICKING

It was suggested an assembly be held on teaching pupils to respect wild flowers.

Y6 TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

A workshop has been booked to teach Y6 about public transport ahead of moving to secondary school in September. Janet recommends parents practice the journey in the months beforehand to build up confidence

SAFER STREETS

There has been a consultation on making the street a school street, which would mean the road would become a no drive through area between 8.45-9.30 and 3.15-4.00 except for residents and deliveries. The school has also requested wider pavements. There were questions raised about the viability of this though, with Toby Lane possibly becoming heavily blocked as a result. Discussions are ongoing.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

A reminder that pupils with PE first thing must change into their school uniform afterwards.

DAILY/WEEKLY MILE

This is to be reintroduced for all pupils in the summer term.