

## **Academy Council Minutes – 26 March 2024**

Attendees:

Claire Willis (CW) Principal

Clair Tramontini (CT) Council member and parent

Joanne Barber (JB) Council member and parent

Claire Kalinowska (CK) Council member and parent, minute taker

### **1) Date for Parents evening**

Date already announced to parent/carers along with booking instructions.

### **2) Concerns About Year 6**

We are aware of a few children struggling with the run up to SATs. Children who are unhappy with the tedium, boredom and repetition, resulting in tears, and an unwillingness to come to school. Recently they seem to have had music and computing removed as well.

CW. The recent lack of music and computing was temporary and are still going to go ahead.

The revision that the children have been doing is to get them in the best possible place to sit their SATs fully prepared, comfortably and with as little surprises as possible. Due to this same preparation last years' children fed back they felt the paper reflected what they had done in class and therefore there were no surprises. This revision also aims to ensure that they are at the correct level of understanding for starting high school in September.

Various incentives are being used- various prizes, pens, rubbers, books etc for all sorts of things- helping others, showing school values, being kind, picking up litter etc. There is an end of year prize and a chance to win either a tablet, family restaurant ticket and family cinema ticket for three pupils that have consistently shown our values.

Saturday school attendees get pizza. Breakfast club are getting chocolate brioche.

Year 6 will be putting on the musical Bugsy Malone and their music lessons will focus on preparation for that. Hopefully this will inject some fun into their week.

There is a day trip to Mersea Island outdoor centre to look forward to.

There will be other celebrations planned. Any photographs of Yr 6 pupils from reception to now would be appreciated. These can be emailed to the office or hard copies brought in.

The possibility of a disco was discussed, but dismissed due to previous experiences of attempting school discos, by both parents and staff.

### **3) Murrayside Community Centre Car Park**

We have had reports of dangerous driving, excessive speeds in particular and an issue with a member of the Community Centre staff saying that parents of the school should not be using the car park. The taxis provided by SCC who collect and drop off some of the children for Leappad can often cause problems by parking inconsiderately.

Could all school users of this car park please stick to low speed (signposted as 5 mph) and take care manoeuvring and parking in the marked bays.

CW believes that the car park is outside of the current lease of the building by the Murrayside Community Development CIC and is accessible to users of the school as well.

Action Point CK to contact Darren Bloom who is the Paradigm Estates manager.

Action Point CK to contact the community centre to remind their users to drive carefully and at low speed.

### **4) Non curricular activities**

We have seen many comments that the school "does nothing" and that all other schools do lots of fun things, whereas Murrayfield does not.

CW. School competitive sports teams for football and netball; the Hinterland programme that sees each year group going out and about for a variety of school trips- theatre, library, museums. Student Leadership team, who amongst other things have organised a special party each term for students who show the school values. A variety of after school clubs. Lunch clubs with board games.

The school has selected Christmas Jumper day and Children in Need as being suitable events. We also have a summer and winter concert, orchestra evenings, Young Voices and a year 6 musical. Trust sports days for year 5 and 6 as well as

whole school sports days. We have singing assemblies every week in which we also celebrate achievement in and beyond the classroom, e.g. sailing and athletic competitions. We celebrate achievements at a class level as well as the whole school.

### **Any Other Business**

-Dogs/bicycles in the playground. Dogs are not allowed in the playground. Adult cyclists should dismount. Please could adults carefully supervise small children on bicycles as there have been a couple of near misses recently.

-Dojo app. If you have problems with the Dojo app please speak to Faye in the office or Hazel in Yr 4.

-Love Nature is asking schools to create a sculpture from recycled material. Some of these would go on display at the Suffolk Show. CW will ask the School Council to decide if they want to take part.

-Toilets. Complaints of poor state of cleanliness and lack of hygienic usage. CW has a member of staff on duty at the toilets during break and lunchtime to try and combat this.. CW will remind pupils of acceptable behaviour during assembly.