

Academy Council Minutes - 28/03/2023

Residential

The residential has gone from year 5 and 6 to now being year 4 and 6.

The week before last was Children's Mental Health Week and the school did some activities the week before half term, such as dress to express day on the last day of the half term. The school hasn't done anything with the parents yet. Emma Young is the Personal Mental Health and Wellbeing manager for Old Ford and Kevin will speak to her about it.

Multi-Faith Room/ Reflection Club

The Multi faith room started 27th February and was very well attended. Kevin hasn't had any feedback yet and they are trying to organise how they come in for lunch because there was a rush at the end, as far as he knows it went well. A couple of parents have been very supportive by donating the mats to the school. There seems to be quite a lot of interest from pupils and Shabina has worked out a rota of staff to volunteer and we just need to sort out logistics. We'll see how many children are going and how many children want to go. Dawud said he would go to the prayer room on Friday.

Parents Art Classes

It is currently at 2.15pm on Wednesdays but numbers are low, and Veronica was thinking about changing the time, maybe talk to the parents who attend the coffee mornings. Dawud will contact Shabina. Rethink the timing depending on Veronica's flexibility. Kevin said that Veronica only works part time from lunchtimes until 5pm so it's just the afternoons she has available. If there are a lot of parents who can only do it in the mornings, we could possibly change it and Kevin could speak to her. At the time we said that we'd do it at the end of the day so that parents can come along to it and then pick up their children straight after. Dawud sent the poster to the WhatsApp group to try and get some interest, but it might just be due to the timing that's the issue. Some parents have suggested that mornings would be better because they drop their children off and then they stay. The school set up the art classes as a social thing as the coffee mornings are quite a social gathering. The coffee mornings work, better for some parents because they can just go there after dropping their children off. Kevin will suggest the mornings to Veronika, she might be flexible and have time in the mornings. For people attending in person maybe they could come and have a coffee whilst waiting for people to join online at 9.15am so maybe make it 8.55am or 9am in person and have an informal chat and for those joining at home they can log on at 9.15am.

School Events

There is enthusiasm for parents to be involved in and helping to organise school events like sales for charity.

Paradigm Trust Newsletter

Dawud gets the newsletter every week and says he is very proud that it is mainly children from Old Ford that are highlighted as good examples of writing. There was another one this week for the year 6 handwriting. These examples are shared across the trust.

Old Ford on Social Media

A parent asked if Old Ford has been sharing samples of children's work on their social media platforms. Kevin says someone else manages it and the idea is that we send a photo every day, not necessarily always work. The last couple of weeks we've had the dental workshop, we've had the sports leaders programme, we had pancake day and the values postcard, but we could put examples of the children's work on there. Kevin doesn't really look at the Instagram, but he thinks that is a shared Paradigm one rather than an Old Ford one.

Fundraising Events

Is there going to be more funding events for Turkey and Syria? Kevin said they did the Friday, and they raised £2085 and doesn't know if there is anything else planned unless parents are planning something themselves. It was suggested by some parents to Shabina to do another fundraiser, parents are keen to do another one. There will be another on Friday 3rd March.

Parents Consultation

A parent said that they know that there was one in February, but wants to know how it will be from now on. Kevin said we've just had one following the assessments and at the end of the year if any parents would like to meet their teacher they can take that up. But we're not going to have a blanket everyone sign up. It's only for parents who want to meet the teacher and make an appointment, otherwise across the board it will be once a year either in January or February. It won't be like it was before, every term. We do not test the children three times a year, we only do the formal testing in November and then in May/June. We don't have the one in March anymore because it was too much for the children to be tested three times a year and also, we're not sure if parents really needed to see the teachers three times a year and if they do the doors are always open to make an appointment. To organise parent conferences is quite an ordeal to have teachers out of class and to have them covered. Someone suggested that they send the teachers an email and maybe put that in the newsletter.

Homework

A parent said that the children get a lot of homework at holidays and during term time but there isn't usually feedback on it. Kevin said that the homework is marked in class the same way they do their work in class. They should be marking it in class and learning from their mistakes and discussing the work as they go. The best way to get feedback is to mark it with the work in front of them. The work they are given they should be able to do themselves like times tables or spelling or simple sentence work. Things they can do independently shouldn't be too challenging. Some parents might not be comfortable supporting them to do the work

and we don't want it to be a burden on parents. We don't want homework to be stressful for the students or the parents. It's nice for parents to see what their children are doing at school and is good to build good habits for when they go to secondary school where they really get a lot of homework.

There is a homework club if children want to stay then they can help them out with it.

Year 6 Revision

Kevin said the revision is going fine. We don't want to overstress the kids, but we have them coming in Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8am. On Tuesdays they do reading and grammar and on Thursday they do maths. They have books they work through called SATS Busters with 10-minute tests that they do every week, and the teacher marks it with them and uses it as a teaching point if they realise they need to work on certain areas.

The SATS are in May and usually the SATS are on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday but because of the extra bank holiday in May for the coronation, so now they are on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9th May. Normally day 1 is the grammar test, day 2 is reading and spelling, day 3 is two maths papers and day 4 is maths. One test a day for about an hour.

We try and not stress the children out about the tests, we do practise papers so that they know what to expect but we don't just do the papers. We teach them how to do the test and what they look like and that hopefully calms the children's nerves of what to expect.

They don't just do reading, writing and maths in year 6 they do the whole curriculum.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Tuesday 25th April on the coffee morning, and we'll invite people in earlier if they want to have a coffee and a chat beforehand, they can come straight afterwards and then come online at 9/9.15am.