

## OFPA ACADEMY COUNCIL MINUTES

13th JUNE 2023

Kevin began by summarising the topics discussed at the previous meeting on 25th April

### **Year 4 Residential to Suffolk.**

**Multi faith room** and reflection club is still going strong.

**Parent art classes** by Veronica and the update is that Veronica has got funding for the intergenerational quilt project next term after the summer holidays. More updates on this to follow.

**Summer Fair** and the update is that it is going to be on 14th July after school.

### **SATs**

**Mental Health** learning mentor Stephen Arravena whose Dawud is going to meet

### **Pupil attendance**

**Teacher strikes** and the update is that there are potentially more strikes planned for July

**School parent dinner days** - every Wednesday parents having dinner with their children year 6 year 5 previously and year 4 this week. Information is in the newsletter for anyone who wants to sign up for that. So far there are about 5 to 6 parents who come.

**SATs** were during the week of May 11th.

Kevin highlighted that there has been lots of talk around the reading one and reports in the press about the difficulty of it. The school didn't think it was that hard and felt it was challenging but quite fair and none of the pupils got upset about doing that paper.

The school also felt that the maths paper was quite reasonable as well and if you would like to see the papers from this years SATs you can Google SATs paper 2023 and you will find them as they are all in the public domain now.

The reading was the main test that was being discussed online and in the newspapers.

### **How well did the pupils cope?**

The school asked the pupils after the test what did they think of it, and no one said it was too difficult nor were they upset or distressed by it.

The results will come in about a month's time but Kevin felt it was quite a positive experience from the school's perspective. The school tries hard not to stress the pupils out about it they doing not spend

months and months preparing and they have a full curriculum that is delivered in the lead up to the SATs. Kevin feels that this means the pupils are quite confident going into the tests.

Dawud asked Kevin to pass on our thanks to everyone at the school for their hard work in managing the process and supporting the pupils throughout the SATs. Dawud mentioned that he had come in to oversee the process of setting up for the tests one morning and the process seemed very smooth and well organised.

### **Attendance and Wristbands for Pupils**

This has been raised across the country as an issue in the news, online and in newspapers.

Part of this is possibly due to COVID, nationally this may be because pupils have got used to being at home during the COVID period and parents have got used to having their children at home. Some parents work more flexibly now and it is easy to have children at home. The Winter flu hit harder this season with peoples immunity down from COVID and the cost of living crises which is causing a bit of anxiety.

Kevin was at the headteachers meeting on Wednesday and the attendance rate for England 93.9% which is lower than it normally is. For London 93.5%, which again is lower than it normally is and for Tower Hamlets it is 92.4%. London is lower than England and Tower Hamlets is lower than London. The meeting spoke about why and why it impacts Tower Hamlets more and what can be done about it. The school is doing as much as it can, such as using the wristband rewards to try and get children back into school but it is a national concern, so it is not just an issue for the school locally, but Tower Hamlets is feeling it more than the rest of the country.

Kevin is checking on the daily attendance figures at Old Ford and on Tuesday it 95.4% and every week the school tends to be at 95% average for the week, which is above the national average. The school is trying the best they can to get that figure up, especially now the good weather is here.

It was asked whether the wrist bands have had a significant impact since being introduced?

The school is beginning to feel the impact now with pupils being rewarded every 2 weeks and running the usual competitions. Kevin said that he is hearing that the wrist bands are having an impact as pupils are saying they want to come in to school to collect theirs. was hoping for more of an impact but seeing it more now and monitoring each day and pupils getting wristbands and Kevin hearing pupils saying that pupils want to come in to get their wrist bands

On Monday Old Ford was 94.6% attendance and Culloden was 93.2%.

Kevin sends the daily attendance figures to staff and the learning mentors do daily calls and go visit those who are anxious about coming to school and staff approach it holistically.

Kevin said that this year there has been an increase in term time holidays where families are taking advantage of cheaper flights outside of the usual holiday period and this didn't happen for a while during COVID but seems to have started again this year, which is a worry.

### **Artwork for Mental Health Week**

Dawud thanked Veronica for the wonderful murals in the playground that was done during the mental health week with mums and dads helping out.

### **Traffic Outside on the Main Road**

It was raised that parents/ carers parking outside the school to drop off children is a real issue where the buses go and the traffic gets very bad and tempers are raised. Kevin said they do daily patrols and put cones out but he is not sure what else they can do about it. Kevin will put another notice in the newsletter as a reminder.

### **School Sports Day**

Kevin to check with Jakir on the actual date, but it will be in July.  
Normally the school has the sports on different days for paired year groups.

### **Summer Concert**

The concert will be on Wednesday 19th July  
There will be two concerts outside in the Key Stage 1 playground, so the younger children in the morning and older children in the afternoon.  
Kevin will put a notice in the newsletter for upcoming key dates for now until the end of term.

### **Year 5 Residential**

Year 4 residential is going soon on 10th July, not every pupil is going but there is over half of the year group.  
Year 5 trip missing out this year, but next year will have a big trip in Scotland or Wales  
The following year will be back on track with residential and trips for year 4 and year 6.

### **Teachers Strikes**

These are potentially happening in the beginning of July as the strike action hasn't finished.  
NEU, the main teachers union, to meet on 17th June to decide to take further action on the week beginning the 3rd of July

The school will wait and see what the outcome of the meeting is.

### **Take Up of Parent dinners**

10 spaces allocated each week and about 5 parents come each time for year 5  
Week before it was 6 for year 6 and this week it is about the same for year 4.  
School planning to keep this rolling but need to keep it to a maximum of 10.

It is quite nice to see the parents come in and the comments have been really good and its nice for the parents to come in and see the whole process and sit with the children. Possibly the school may have two year of parents come in at the same time.

**Notices for Academy Council meetings**

It was raised that some parents are not receiving text messages for the meeting. There was one sent on Friday. Messages are sent on app and the school is now sending text using priority 1 and then priority 2 in families so each family gets on text message. This means it costs less for the school to send only one text per family.

**School returns on Friday 1st September and there will be 3 inset days.**

**Next Academy Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 12th September**