

# Old Ford Academy Council Meeting Tuesday 7th November 2023

Academy Council meetings are on the second Tuesday after each half term and this regular slot is kept so that parents and carers know when each meeting happens.

## Highlights from last meeting:

Multi faith space for pupils is up and running

Academy council elections are now coming up as current academy council members are up  
Key dates for the year and Kevin now puts these into the newsletter.

Year 6 residential has a date and a venue and there will be a meeting for parents and carers on Thursday 16th November.

Kevin highlighted how at lunch times at the start of the academic year it takes a section of pupils a while to get into their routine of going for lunch but that is not a problem now as everyone is used to the routine.

Start of the academic year and attendance, which is a big focus at the moment especially across the country after the pandemic, but attendance at Old Ford is quite good. The school is still doing a lot of work of encouraging children to come in, especially with the seasonal cold weather.

No concerns at Old Ford regarding the concrete issue that was recently raised nationally.

Year 6 trip will be in July and they are going to the Isle of Wight and there will be more information at the meeting next week.

At the last meeting we talked about the new COVID variant that is going across the country, but the school will deal with this as it comes up.

## Year 6 Residential

Meeting next Thursday on 16th at 3.00pm in the school with pupils and parent carers and staff to talk about organisation, dates and costs.

## School Uniform

Item in the newsletter regarding school uniform and there seems to be an emphasis on black shoes. Some pupils have difficulty adhering to the school uniform with pupils wearing expensive multicoloured trainers and the school is trying to address that. But black trainers are ok.

Dawud met with Stephen Aravena and the Dragon Breath was mentioned. Stephen delivered training with staff and this was to be used with the pupils to help them calm down after being in the

playground before lessons. It has only just been trialed to see how it is going. Teachers are filling out a survey to say what the impact of this has been and whether it has had a positive impact on pupil behaviour.

It was agreed in the meeting that this is a good idea and hope it has a positive impact on pupil behaviour.

### **Parent/ Carer Lunch Time**

No one came in last Friday. The school is planning to run this on different days in the week so they can sample the range of menu. Each week rotates through the year groups.

### **Parent Coffee Morning Group Fundraiser**

15th November Wednesday Fundraiser by coffee morning group for Humanitarian Aid for the Middle East.

There was some discussion about what to call the fundraiser and the school is happy to support fundraising events but they are legally not allowed to be involved in any fundraiser for either side of the conflict.

It was agreed that calling it a fundraiser for Humanitarian Aid for the Crisis in Middle East, including food, clothing and medical supplies.

There was a concern about some pupils who chanted 'Free Palestine' in the playground so teachers will be speaking to the pupils in their lessons about why it is not appropriate to be chanting this in the playground.

It was agreed that when talking to the pupils it's important to talk about how so many people are suffering and how we have more in common than we have differences. Also it's important to show respect for each other and not to be political and be mindful of how the crisis is being reported in the media.

Hope Not Hate have a website with advice and guidance on how to explain the issue to children.

### **Messages to Parents/ Carers and MyChildAtSchool app**

The newsletter goes out every week and Kevin would send out a text with the link for the latest newsletter but each text cost money 3p per text so it costs £18 per text to text the whole school. Sometimes it's important to make sure as many parents get messages but the school want as many parents and carers to use the MyChildAtSchool app as it is much cheaper for the school.

The school believes only 40/ 50% parents/ carers have the app.

So to encourage everyone to sign up for the app there will be a competition where everyone who signs up for the app will go into the draw for a Tesco voucher and those who already have the app will be in the draw as well.

This will run for 4 weeks.

There may be people who don't know how to do it so there will be support for those who find it hard to register with the app

### **Academy Council Elections**

Any parent/ carers can write a statement and apply to be an academy council member. Kevin will put a notice out regarding the elections and a statement from Dawud Marsh one of the current academy council members.

**Next Old Ford Academy Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 16th January 2024**