



# **SAMUEL LUCAS JMI SCHOOL**

## **Parent Forum Meeting**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – 2pm**

### **Attending:**

Rachel Foreman (Lilac), Olayinka Bolaji (Lilac), Claire Brandish (Willow), Rosalyn Tyler (Willow), Caroline Earl (Birch), Alison Lees (Birch), Lucy Richardson (Hazel), Emma Hernon (Hawthorn), Abigail Taylor (Oak), Dionne Thompson (Ash), Sharon North (Larch), Simon Turner (Yr 5), Liza Mead (Yr 6), Tracy Thomas - Headteacher, Susan Cosgrave – SBM.

### **Apologies:**

Judith Aggett (Elm), Lindsay Cook (Hazel), Vicki Bean (Ash), Helen Cannon (Larch), Gemma Reid (Pine),

Terms of reference were read out. The forum is for comments and discussion with regards to developing the school not to air gripes if to do with a child or teacher. Terms to be sent to all parents.

### **Safeguarding**

There was a discussion regarding the West Hill gate which is open until late after school and parents collecting from Playaloud. The top gate could be locked earlier, someone could still walk in through main car park gate as this is left open.

Dismissal arrangements – there was an incident whereby a child left the school premises and walked home from KS2 without the parent or school knowing. A letter has been sent home to Yr 5 and 6 with permission to walk home slips. Yr 3 and 4 have been asked that once they are dismissed they need to find their adult, if they are not there they must go back to their teacher or to the school office and they are not to leave the school grounds. If parents are late to collect they must contact the school office. Parents are not to enter school buildings at the beginning or the end of the school day. Parents may have quick chat with teachers on playground at 8.45pm.

### **Attendance**

Attendance in EYFS is lower than other areas of school, families taking holidays during term time and illnesses. If a child sick there is 48 hour rule, this obviously has impact on attendance. Comment from parent – the attendance letter sent home can be impersonal e.g. if school knows child has been sick the letter implies school does not know reason for absence. Discussion re 100% attendance certificates if a child has been sick or to medical appointments it is unfair they do not get a certificate. School will consider not giving these out in future.

### **Skills Based Curriculum**

Mrs Thomas explained that school had Introduced a skills based curriculum – in EYFS there is an investigative approach and learning skills – in Yr 1 they start on the national curriculum and are taught growth mindset, going 'into the pit', behaviour for learning, working collaboratively and also independently. School trips were discussed and if they are

purposeful and adds to the learning then there will be a trip for a class. Workshops in school e.g. History off the Page are amazing and add value to learning. There will be some sort of enrichment to enhance the curriculum. There was a discussion regarding charges for school trips e.g. Yr1 proposed trip to farm £16 head which was excessive, 2 coaches would be needed due to access plus the cost per head per entrance for child.

### **Sports, Intra Events & House Teams**

There is lots of sport going on and being introduced to the children – athletics, cross country, football, netball, whole school competing in intra sports in house teams. Children who are competing in outside competitions referee, score and help organise the intra sport competitions, they do not compete. Children in Yr 3 – 6 will have opportunities to be sports leaders. DfE have recommended children should have an extra hour every day for exercise – half hour at school and half hour at home. The school have invested in some circuit training mats. There is also active equipment on the playground for each year group. Once a week the children in KS2 go for run at lunch time, the last class in to lunch do some running first.

### **Parents Evening**

Parents commented that the hall set up on parents evenings led to a lack of privacy – this is run in this way for security, it allows access through the front office and teachers are together. If there is something confidential this will be discussed at a different time with a separate meeting, the discussion is about teaching and learning in general. There was good feedback to parents in regards to the parents evening booking system.

### **School Uniform & Hawkins of Hitchin**

A new shop will be opening and being set up as a community enterprise serving all Hitchin schools, the profits are being re-invested into the community. Further details will be given to parents once school has them.

### **Any Other Business**

Chocolate selection boxes – collection for Hitchin Partnership hampers.

Class outcomes - send clarification regarding timings.

Parentmail – specify in header what year group the message applies to.

Golden book – communication with child nothing goes home from school.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on ~~Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017~~ this has now changed to **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 2pm.**