

## **West Minster School Parents' forum meeting Notes**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### Attendance:

*15 mums and dads (4 dads)*

*Claire and Jackie (Parent Liaison team), Mr Davies (EHT), Ms McKay (EYFS Lead and AHOS) and Ms Ovenden (Key Stage 1 lead and AHOS)*

### Building expansion programme:

Building programme was discussed and Mr Davies informed parents that this was going to plan and that the school were getting everything they needed for the new buildings and that the only minor issue was that it was slightly delayed and would now be signed off at Easter 2017.

### Hill fort for the field:

Ms Ovenden briefed parents on the Keir community project which would enable the school to gain a hill fort mound on the school field for the children to play on at break times. This would be built by Keir at the end of the building programme.

### Whole school trip to the pantomime:

Mr Davies confirmed that for the second year running all children from Year 2 to Year 6 would be attending the pantomime at Maidstone theatre. This would again be completely subsidised as it was one of the school's driving principles to give children off the island wow/aspirational experiences.

### KCC recent educational audit:

Mr Davies shared the outcomes of the recent Ofsted-style audit carried out by KCC which was a highly positive experience for the school and concluded that the school is now looking like a Good school with some possible outstanding aspects such as EYFS and Inclusion.

Mr Davies was particularly pleased with the parents' survey they had carried out at random in the playground which again was highly positive in response to questions about leadership, inclusion, safety and standards.

### Parent Questionnaire:

Ms Ovenden fed back that this again had been a good response with highly positive views expressed by parents at the school. Communication was highlighted as an issue and the school had already taken various action to address this. Parents at forum also suggested having a parents board in the foyer area to help with this and MS Ovenden agreed to take this forward.

### Parents' Evenings:

Mr Davies confirmed that Target setting evenings would begin the week of 14<sup>th</sup> November and that all parents should attend as this was an important meeting where parents and teachers could discuss the academic targets for their children. One parent commented that it was very positive to see the children's targets now in their books across the federation.

### New parents entrance area:

Mr Davies informed parents that the school had now created a more inviting entrance foyer for parents to wait for appointments or in inclement weather. This would have comfortable seating and a table with letters and things for toddlers to be occupied whilst waiting etc. Parents at forum welcomed this new parent-friendly addition to the school.

John Doleman:

Mr Davies introduced John who has now been commissioned as the federation's Speech and Language specialist. He would be screening nursery children to set school baselines in this key area and would be holding workshops with staff and parents to address key issues around language acquisition.

One parent at the forum stated that her child was being referred to John already and had welcomed this new addition to the school's SEND provision.

Lateness and attendance:

Mr Davies reiterated as ever that this was an important aspect for the school and although we were now hitting the magic 96% national expectation we need to all keep focussed and ensure that there are no holidays taken in term time and our attendance continues to improve so that all children can keep learning and being successful in school and beyond.