



Timu Academy Trust

March 2017

Together Everyone Achieves More

Staffing

Iwade—We said goodbye to Miss Charis Steensel from the front office who has moved to a Finance post in Sheerness. We will really miss her. Kelly Higgins has moved from her teaching assistant post into the front office to replace her.

Timu staff—Mrs Harris and Kelly Croucher will be leaving the SEN team to move on to new opportunities. We wish them well and welcome Tracey Draper into the team. We also welcome additional teaching assistants for terms 5 and 6 to support pupils on a one to one basis—Mrs Cadby, Ms Saunders, Mrs August., Mrs Cotta.

Babies—We have 3 teachers who will be starting maternity leave soon. Mrs Knaves and Miss Robson will be on leave from term 6 with babies due in June and July, and Mrs Claridge with a second child due in August will be with us until the end of the summer term. More info will follow soon to parents in Dover and Little Bears classes.

Reading Project

Here at the TIMU academy Reading is a big focus. We are working hard to ensure that your children leave us with the skills needed to read for understanding but also read for enjoyment. This year a group of teachers have been working on a Reading Project to improve the standards of Reading across the Academy Trust We thought that you would appreciate being told of the changes that we have made so far to Reading.

Reading Activities

One of the biggest changes we have made so far this year has been the format of our Reading Activities session completed by the children each day. The children now follow a three day cycle

Day One - looking at and text marking the text. We also look at a particular skill the children need, developing this skill through questioning

Day Two - Independent Comprehension

Day Three - working as a class through the answers and discussing how we would ensure we got the highest possible number of marks

The other two days the children will be reading their Accelerated Reader books and completing quizzes.

Home/School Reading Books

As an Academy we moved away a long time ago from the children needing to have read 30 books before being able to move up a stage. The Reading Project Team have created a criteria that teachers will use to allow us to decide when a child should move up a reading stage. The criteria is as follows -

- Teacher needs to see a secure understanding of the text through discussions with the child during 1:1 reading; this will be recorded in Yellow Reading Books.
- Children need to be able to read their Stage Books fluently and not stumble over any tricky words they may encounter.
- Formal and informal teacher assessment reflects the Stage that the child is on.
- If the child can take an Accelerated Reader test, they need to achieve at least 80% on it. Should the child fail to reach an 80% pass mark, they could be asked to read the book again to help secure their understanding of it.
- The child ideally needs to be reading at least 3 times a week at home as this will ensure they are having enough practice with their reading and this should also help with securing their understanding of the book.
- The child should be reading a mixture of genre on their Stage, such as, poetry (if available), fiction, non-fiction, classics, graphic novels and true stories.

Free Readers

We have also created a list of Recommended Reads for once your child becomes a Free Reader in Years 4, 5 and 6. These are just an idea of authors and book titles that we think children would like to read. The list is just a snapshot of good quality books and we are sure that you and your children know lots of others!

Designated Safeguarding Leads :

Mrs Hudson—Bobbing

Mrs C Mariner—Iwade

Mrs Smith

Mr Powell

Mrs Stewart

If you are worried about a child -

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000 (you can remain anonymous)

Inclusion Team

Mr Powell Inclusion lead

Mrs Gilmour Special Needs Co-ordinator

Mrs Draper SEN Assistant

Senior Staff at TIMU**Executive Principal**

Mrs K Ware

Bobbing Village School Principal

Mrs L Hudson

Iwade School Principal

Mrs C Mariner

Assistant Principal (Numeracy)

Mrs A Smith

Assistant Principal (Teaching & Learning/English)

Mrs K Stewart

Teaching and Learning Lead Advisor yrs 3 and 4

Mr A Powell

Teaching and Learning Advisor Reception year

Mr T Harwood

Teaching and Learning Advisor year 1

Miss Wright

Teaching and Learning Advisor year 2

Mrs Knight

Teaching and Learning Advisor year 5 and 6

Mrs Norris

School Finances -

In the press you may well have read about how school budgets are being cut leading to many schools being put under immense pressure. Our per pupil funding at Bobbing will be cut in September 2017 by 1.58% and at Iwade by 2.54%. The education services grant (ESG) has reduced by 46%. As Iwade is increasing its pupil numbers this has helped cushion the full effect of these changes. Due to very careful management of our schools' finances by our school leaders our school budgets have good reserves which we hope will enable us to survive the next 5 years without making any major changes to our provision. This is great news, however we do not yet know what effect the Government's new National Funding Formula will have on our schools. The majority of any school budget is spent on school staffing, typically 75% of the overall income is spent this way. For detailed information about our finances please see the school website under the tab—Information— financial information. Our school finances are audited internally and externally by our trustees and governors, by our Accountants and finally by the Education Funding Agency. Scrutiny is rigorous and continuous to ensure our schools comply with the rules and standards set for us as officers who hold public funds.

We purchase many of our goods using the Government's procurement service. This means we are able to save money and buy good quality goods and services at competitive terms and conditions.

Since January we have been adding to our wallscapes with a fantastic castle wall at Bobbing. This brings our communities of Castle, Sky, Ocean and Forest to life. The children really love the artwork and identify with their community. These have cost the schools nearly £9500 but make us unique and identifiable.

Iwade's small hall needs to be adapted ready for use as a dining hall in September 2017. Due to restricted space and storage we have purchased tables which fold into a wall cupboard. This will allow us to continue to use the hall for the PE curriculum and assemblies whilst also benefitting Child's Play. These do not come cheap and we have spent £21797.

We are also refurbishing classrooms at both schools. Iwade will have an additional class in Sky community in September and we are purchasing new tables, chairs, furniture and resources plus redecorating walls and new blinds to the windows to complete the new look at a total cost of nearly £4000

We continue to subsidise the enhancement of the school curriculum. Since January we have spent the following:

Year 3 Romans Workshop £432

Year 6 Book writer and illustrator workshops £540

Year 2 Great fire of London workshop and materials £295

School Survey Results

We asked parents, staff and pupils to complete questionnaires for us. Many of you did and we thank you. The answers were then used to compare our schools' effectiveness against the top 25% of high performing schools resulting in 5 key points for Improvement for each school. These will all be part of our work over the next year.

Bobbing School Priorities

- 1) Pedagogy and teaching techniques
- 2) Strategic direction and accountability
- 3) Formative assessment and feedback
- 4) Learning to learn (meta-cognition)
- 5) Professional development

Iwade School Priorities

- 1) Pedagogy and teaching techniques
- 2) Strategic direction and accountability
- 3) Learning to learn (meta-cognition)
- 4) Formative assessment and feedback
- 5) Engaging parents, community and other agencies

If you would be interested in looking at the whole of the survey results they are on the website under the tab—Bobbing/Iwade - Information for Parents—Survey Results

Assertive Mentoring Reports

The latest set of reports will have been shared with you this week and will be discussed at the next Parents Evenings at the start of term 5. Further information regarding the Assertive mentoring process, the colour codes and targets can be found on the trust website www.timuacademytrust.org.uk.

Handwriting

We have all been practising our joined handwriting and we have seen some amazing improvements, by teachers too! This term we held a handwriting competition which was judged by one of our Parent Governors in order to promote all the great work we have been seeing on displays and in books. We will be awarding prizes of Parker ink pens to all KS2 winners, pencil sets to KS1 winners, certificates of commendation and rosettes to all runners up, and rosettes to all improvers. If you would like to see our handwriting style please look on the website tab—policies—handwriting and presentation.

Governance—We Need YOU !!

Governance of our Timu Academy Trust can appear complicated. Information about our governance structure can be found on the website, including the names of local governors, trustees and members. Each individual school is governed by local governing bodies who monitor the work of each school. The Trust Board which is made up of directors (otherwise known as trustees) who make important and strategic decisions for all schools within the trust. They make their decisions based on guidance from the local boards.

Do you have an interest in joining us, either as a local governor or as a Trustee? Do you have time and skills that you could dedicate to your school?

If you are interested please do let us know. We would love to hear from you.

Early Morning Work (8.30—8.50)

Just a reminder that we welcome children into school from 8.30am. Doors close and we register later after 8.50 am. When the children arrive in class, if they do not have their morning session of Freddy Fit, teachers set them learning challenges to complete. These may be Maths or English based and practise the skills they have been learning in their lessons, or they could be reading in groups or with the adults, or even having a chat about their progress. It is a shame to see so many children arriving so close to 8.50 that they regularly miss this morning work and thought that maybe you didn't realise what was on offer. Three mornings arriving at 8.30 would give them an additional hour of learning time each week.

And Finally.....

On behalf of the directors and staff of Timu Academy Trust we wish you all a fantastic Easter break.

The new term starts on Tuesday 18th April 2017. We have a bank holiday on Monday May 1st and half term week is Monday May 29th until Friday 2 June inclusive.