



# Timu Academy Trust

Together Everyone Achieves More

July 2017

## Staffing

**Iwade**—We wish Mrs Claridge all the best as she starts her maternity leave and look forward to her new arrival news in a few weeks time . We can finally release the great news that Miss Hankins will be starting as the road crossing patrol officer at some time during September once her training has been completed. Miss Roe is also leaving to take up her place at Kent University. We wish her every success in her studies.

**Timu staff**— We wish Mr Sam Dale a sad farewell and thank him for all the work he has done for our sports teams. Sam is off to undertake the final part of his teacher training at a secondary school in Gravesend. We wish him every success . The staff party will miss his karaoke numbers that he may well receive a special guest ticket.

**Bobbing** —We say good bye to Miss Sibborn, Miss Webb and Mr McAllister. Miss Sibborn is moving to another school closer to home, Miss Webb is seeking new opportunities out of the teaching profession and Mr McAllister is following his first love - football coaching. We wish them all every success.

## **Exciting Changes to Reading!**

From September you will notice an exciting change to the current Reading Scheme – After Stage 3, pupils will move to Accelerated Reading Book Banding – this consists of 6 colours.

Pupils will regularly complete a STAR READER Quiz – this quiz will inform the pupils about their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) – this tells them what '**Colour Band**' they should read from; for challenge, interest and to support their learning.

Using Accelerated Reader (AR) means that:

- Pupils' reading will continue to be regularly monitored
- Pupils will have appropriate books for their interest and ability level
- Pupils will have a wider choice of books to choose from
- Pupils will develop their comprehension skills with a quiz for most of the books they have read

What is also fantastic about Accelerated Reader is the *Book Finder Tool*; where you too can find books that are at the appropriate **ZPD/Colour Band** for your child.

<http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

## **Volunteers**

Do you have some spare time ? Are you interested in helping out the children and teachers in your school ? We are always keen to hear from you if you have a couple of spare mornings, afternoons or even days. You will need to have a criminal record check and provide us with references.

If you're interested please do come in and talk to us in September.

## **Challenge Champion Awards**

We have listened to parents comments that you believe all children have their own challenges which they have set themselves or through assertive mentoring and that you would like them all to be rewarded at some point in the year with the challenge champion award. Next year we will ensure all children do receive an award or take home a class mascot , at least once a year.

As a school we are teaching our children to be resilient and that life has its ups and downs and its disappointments that we need to teach them how to cope with and manage. As parents we find it intolerable if our children are upset or disappointed and will do anything we can to avoid them feeling this way. This does not happen in real life—as adults we know too well.

We will discuss this further and let you know in September what awards will look like and what we will be rewarding.

**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

**Deputy Principal Iwade**

Mrs A Smith

**Deputy Principal Bobbing**

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 yrs 1 and 2**

Miss Gough

**Teaching and Learning Advisor year 5 and 6**

Mrs Norris

**School Finances -**

School funding has continued to dominate the headlines recently as school budgets are under pressure. Recent announcements from Government regarding funding increases are welcome, but the devil will be in the detail. In the meantime, we continue to work with what we have and maximise our value for money to ensure that every penny counts.

This year to date approximately 73% of our costs have been spent on staffing. This represents 71% of our total income. Our second highest area of expenditure, excluding capital items, is on infant free school meals. Other high expenditure areas include equipment and resources (including pens, paper, paint etc), staff training, equipment repairs and maintenance and professional services such as legal and audit fees.

We have been charged nearly £4000 to defend multiple admissions appeals at both schools where parents want their child to join an already full year group. These are not legal fees, but the cost of having representation at the appeal hearings.

We have spent nearly £13000 on plumbing and heating repairs at Bobbing since January of last year. We are hoping that the repairs that have been completed will mean that we can now reduce our expenditure in this area.

We also successfully submitted a substantial bid to the Education Funding Agency for the capital funds to decommission the failing sewage treatment plant at Bobbing school and replace it with a connection to mains drainage. We are aiming to complete this major project by November.

Our curriculum enhancement has continued with the following wow days visitors:

Year 1 Pirates workshop £456

Year 4 Egyptians workshop £456

Trips have taken place to Swattenden, PGL, Wingham Wildlife Centre, Horton Kirby Environmental Centre, Chessington, Chatham Dockyard, Kent Life, Leeds Castle. We endeavour to keep the costs of trips to a minimum and subsidise up to 100% for those in receipt of free school meals. We will never exclude a child from a day trip where parents are unable or do not pay.

### School Improvement Plan 2017-18

Following comments made by parents and pupils throughout the year, gathered on FB, in person or from questionnaires we have included some of your main concerns into the next academic year's school improvement plan. Our plan 's key issues are agreed with our governors following our evaluation of all of the work the school has undertaken this year, its SATs results and its results for each year group for attainment and progress in reading, writing and maths. Thank you to all who have contributed with their views.

1. Improve the communication by school leaders, governors, teaching staff and pupils with parents and the wider community
2. Improve and refine the staff Appraisal process so that individual and personalised objectives are set to promote school improvement
3. Adapt and where required revise the Assertive Mentoring process to secure its continued impact on pupils' learning
4. Continue to develop teachers to meet the outstanding criteria through a programme of coaching and mentoring
5. Develop a tracking system for pupils' punctuality which leads to improved and effective monitoring, evaluation and action
6. Raise the standards within the Behaviour policy to tackle low level "Amber" disruption
7. Continue to improve pupil attainment at end of KS2 in Reading
8. Continue to improve Writing across the curriculum, developing a real purpose for writing

### Spinners and Pokemon cards etc

From September, if the craze still continues, we will allow these into school as they do occupy children during their free time and they do so enjoy them. However, we are aware that these items could cause problems and then we would have no option but to issue a ban.

Can we please ask you as parents to ensure your son/daughter takes full responsibility for these items and not be asking school staff to spend time sorting out issues or hunting down the missing items.

### 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. Please email us or use the contact form on our website.

### Punctuality and Early Morning Work (8.30—8.50)

Just a reminder that we welcome children into school from 8.30am. Doors close and we register late 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, having a chat about their progress or responding to the teachers' improvement marking. 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.

In 2017-18 we will be monitoring punctuality more closely and taking action to improve persistent lateness.

### And Finally.....

On behalf of the directors and staff of Timu Academy Trust we wish you all a fantastic Summer holiday, whatever you are doing. We have had a most amazing year, culminating in our brilliant Ofsted judgements and reports

The new term starts on Monday 4th September 2017 for years 1 to 6. We have a training day on 6 October 2017.