

Minutes of the Parent Forum 12th September 2023

Present

Rebecca Wilkinson
Ruth Culley
Lee Pimblett
32 Parents

The parents were welcomed and were informed that the children have settled beautifully back in school.

SPOTLIGHT

The SPOTLIGHT Curricular/Extra Curricular Offer was chatted through with parents. This system is an *optional* extension of our SMMJ University Offer which enables pupils to be rewarded for covering a wide range of Extra-Curricular Skills:-

		What they need to do to go towards the award
S	Sport	Extra curricular sports clubs (at least 12 hours)
P	Performance	Any additional performances they do in their own time Eg. Theatre Cafe Talent Shows Choir Performances (eg. Care Homes) Whole School Productions (this may involve performing/scenery/lighting/props etc) Out of school productions
O	Oracy	Take part in Speech Choir Recite poetry to an audience Learn a Shakespeare Sonnet/an additional poem of their choice Take part in a Debate against other schools. Talk on a topic of their choice to an audience
T	Trips / Travel / Transition	Residentials Museums Art galleries Theatre Trips
L	Learning a new skill	Any new skill learnt out of curriculum time
I	Independent Project	Independent Project on any topic of their choice
G	Gospel Values	Organise a Charity Event Take Part in an Out of School Charity Event Receive the Disciple of the Week Award multiple times (ie more than once)
H	Health and Wellbeing	Activity of their choice to promote wellbeing
T	Team Work	Represent the school in some capacity Eg. Sport Team (even if a friendly with another school) Choir Quiz Team Debating Team Anti-Bullying Conference

The children need to achieve all 9 aspects of SPOTLIGHT in order to achieve the SPOTLIGHT Award and it may be that it takes them more than one year to do it.

All children, regardless of whether they work towards the SPOTLIGHT Award will be eligible for SMMJ University Awards for completing extra-curricular hours:-

25 hours extra-curricular= Bronze Award

50 hours extra-curricular=Silver Award

75 hours extra curricular=Gold Award

In terms of the additional SPOTLIGHT Awards:-

SPOTLIGHT with Honours= All nine aspects of SPOTLIGHT achieved

SPOTLIGHT with Masters= All nine aspects of SPOTLIGHT achieved twice (eg two years)

SPOTLIGHT with Doctorate=All nine aspects of SPOTLIGHT achieved three times (eg. three years)

The SPOTLIGHT Offer is optional but is something that we will be encouraging the children to take part in as we feel that it will:-

1. Push the children to have high aspirations
2. Develop the 'whole child' as we feel that SPOTLIGHT covers a range of experiences
3. Encourage the children to become self motivated, independent learners-qualities that will take them far in life

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

A range of clubs will be available for the children across this year:-

Football, Dodgeball, Netball, Boxing, Cross Country, Cricket, Dance, Table Tennis, Athletics, Rounders, Boccia, Bleep Test, Sewing, Speech Choir, Theatre Café, Can Do Club, Art, Spanish, Wellbeing, Mindfulness Movement, Quiz Team, Library, LEGO, Chess, STEM, Picture News, Computing, Homework, Booster Classes

WELLBEING AWARD

School are due to be re-validated for the Wellbeing Award in 2024 (we were one of the first schools in Knowsley to achieve the award in 2020). Mrs Culley gave an overview of all the strategies in place to support wellbeing in our school. Any parents who require and further information in relation to wellbeing should contact Mrs Culley or Mrs Perry.

PTA

The PTA are keen to recruit new members. Any offers of help are welcome (eg. parents could help at individual events, could help source things, could offer suggestions for events, could help with match funding). Attending every meeting isn't essential. A member of the PTA put her e mail address in the chat. Elaineclark212@yahoo.co.uk.

AOB

The SEND Coffee Mornings were promoted. A parent stated how useful these were. At these meetings various personnel in the field of SEND attend and it is an opportunity for parents to obtain new strategies to support their child and to gather support from other parents.

It is likely that the school will receive an Ofsted Inspection either this year or next. Parents were asked to alert the Senior Leadership Team if there were any aspects of the school that they felt could be improved (slt@smmj.org.uk)

Parents were reminded that children need to be pre-booked onto Breakfast and After School Club and should not just turn up. This is so that we can ensure that we have the correct staffing ratios in place each day.

QUESTIONS RAISED BY PARENTS

<u>QUESTION</u>	<u>RESPONSE</u>
Can the Performance aspect of SPOTLIGHT be achieved if the child does not actually perform	Contribution to a production (eg. Scenery/Lighting/Costumes/Props/Advertising) will also be taken account of in the achievement of this aspect of SPOTLIGHT
What about the children for whom just getting into school is an achievement.	SPOTLIGHT is an optional extra aimed at Raising Aspirations. It is not compulsory. All children will be eligible for Gold, Silver and Bronze awards from the SMMJ University for accruing extra-curricular hours. There are lots of awards in school for rewarding all children (Achievement, Disciple of the Week, Growth Mindset, Attendance)
Will extra-curricular hours accrued last year be taken account of?	Yes -extra curricular hours get rolled forward from one year to the next
How will hours be recorded?	All staff will take a register and Miss Finnegan will keep a log of the hours Hours accrued out of school should be shown to Miss Finnegan with evidence that they have been achieved (eg. signature of the out of school teacher)
How can children select the club to go to?	We have recently had an Enrichment Fair to allow the children to select activities
What if a child is reserved and struggles to choose an activity?	Parents can inform their class teacher if there are any clubs that their child wishes to participate in
Can boys do netball?	Boys and girls can select to do any of the activities.
What is the waiting list for the Educational Psychologist?	To be followed up with Mrs Medway