SKETTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD SGETI

Llwynmawr Road
Sketty
Swansea
SA2 9HJ

Fforddd Llwynmawr
Sgeti
Abertawe
SA2 9HJ

Headteacher: **Mrs Beverley Phillips**
Deputy Head: **Mr Simon Lloyd-Jones**

Tel: 01792 206655
Fax: 01792 200141

Email:sketty.primaryschool@swansea- edunet.gov.uk

26th April 2024

Dear Sketty Primary School community

I write to you in regards to the recent consultation regarding the Asymmetrical Week.

In my role as Chair of Governors I see that the need for change is critical. Schools around Swansea are operating with a deficit budget, depleting any reserves that were in place in the fight to retain their staffing body in its entirety and the range of support services on offer to our children. Good, skilled, experienced and new teachers are leaving the profession due to the pressures of the job. This has recently been highlighted by the new Secretary for Education Lynne Neagle MS who has endorsed recommendations to address teachers working hours and conditions.

The consideration regarding the Asymmetrical Week was recommended by Swansea Council as a way of addressing some of the challenges facing schools in the Local Authority. The Governors have considered the feedback from the Local Authority, Senior Leadership Team, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, PTA, after school club and those parents and carers who engaged with the open consultation.

Sketty School supports the education of nearly 500 children and despite the efforts to raise awareness of the consultation, unfortunately only a quarter of our community engaged and provided feedback on the proposals. The consultation and feedback forms were sent out on numerous occasions on Dojo on both school and class stories. 77 objections were raised, many of which with legitimate concerns and many based on inaccuracies or misunderstandings in regards to the proposal. 38 responses were supportive and 18 were neutral, seeking clarification regarding the information. The Headteacher has also held six face to face consultation meetings which were attended by a total of 46 people.

Since the opening of the consultation a new Minister for Education has been appointed who has been quite vocal about the need to change and implementation of the recommendations from the review on teaching working hours, pay and conditions should be in place from September. There is also a consultation open regarding school holidays with a proposal to restructuring of the academic year which could be in place for the coming academic year.









The Governing Body considered all of the feedback provided and has made the following decision based on two main factors:

1. Given the potential changes being considered by Welsh Government, it is possible that there will be changes made to school holidays and other elements of our teacher's roles for the coming academic year.
2. We only received 38 positive responses to the consultation and cannot assume that abstention means that people are supportive.

The Governing Body have made the decision to suspend introducing the proposed changes to the start and end times of the school day for the upcoming academic year and will reconsider the proposal over the course of the 24/25 academic year. There will be no changes to the start and end times of the school day for the coming academic year. We will be in touch with further communications regarding further consultation in due course.

We will continue to consult and consider reshaping the proposal based on some of the feedback we have received. I would also respectfully ask that when engaging with the school, parents and other members of the community demonstrate respectful language and conduct themselves in a manner that they would wish the children in the school to demonstrate. Unfortunately, a small minority of the feedback has been abusive and disrespectful towards the staff body.

The feedback has also demonstrated that we could be better at communicating with our community and as such, the school have taken what I believe to be a positive step in establishing a monthly newsletter to update on some of the great news that regularly comes from the school, and some of the challenges we face. The first newsletter will be sent out through DOJO on Thursday 2nd May.

Finally, I would also encourage any of you who are yet to read the ESTYN report of last September, to take the time to read what the independent inspectors have said about Sketty School.

Kind regards
Mr Richard Lancaster
Chair of Governors
Sketty Primary School







