

**Minutes of Parents in Partnership Meeting
Community Room, Sunnymede Junior School
Friday 11th November 2016**

	Name	Role	Class
Present:	Ronnie Branch	Headteacher	
	Gail Oliver	PA to Headteacher	
	Lucy Moffat	Parent Representative	4H
	Ruth Coppell	Parent Representative	4B
	Hayley Quarrell	Parent Representative	3H
	Leah Rogers	Parent Representative	6B
	Susan Kelly	Parent Representative	6HP

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Kerry Vickers (class 5H rep) and Angela Chapman (class 5C rep). Mrs Branch welcomed everyone, including our new representative Mrs Quarrell, and explained the purpose of the Parent in Partnership group and the role of representatives. Those present were reminded that the meeting was to discuss whole school issues and school policy, not issues about individual classes or teachers. Where there are issues to be addressed at a class level, these matters should be brought up in the first instance by the relevant parent with the class teacher or phase group leader.

VACANCIES

It was noted that no representatives came forward from class 3B to act as representatives and a suggestion was made about a parent who may be interested. There is also a vacancy for class 6G Mrs Oliver to contact the parent suggested to see if they might act as the class representative for class 3B. A representative for 6G to be sought.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

These were approved, with no changes made.

ACTIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

PARKING IN MONS AVENUE:

The parking banner was purchased and placed to remind parents not to park outside the school gate. Parents at the meeting reported that they believed it had made a difference and there are now fewer issues with illegal parking than there had been previously.

PREMISES WORKS:

Playground and wildlife area resurfacing: The playground has been fully resurfaced over the holidays and the children are enjoying the new playground markings and safer surface. Representatives present thought that it was a great improvement for the children. All the paving in the wildlife area has also been resurfaced. Mrs Branch reported that the new Y5 Play Leaders will receive training in the next couple of weeks on how to use the markings effectively, so they can share these ideas with other pupils. Mrs Branch reported that the local authority had contributed a significant amount to the resurfacing work and we have a duty to ensure the new surface is well maintained. As such, the playground will continue to be inaccessible to parents during whole school events.

OLD ICT SUITE:

RB reported that the old ICT suite has been decommissioned and a new flexible working space is in place. This is looking lovely, with bright and attractive furniture to make this a place pupils will want to visit.

FIELD DRAINAGE ISSUES:

There has been a historical issue with poor drainage on the school field and we are in the process of having exploratory work completed to see if this can be improved in any way.

SCHOOL REDECORATION:

The middle school area was re-painted over half term and new children's pegs installed.

Y6 RESIDENTIAL TO KINGSWOOD

Mrs Branch reported that this had been a great success and the children experienced some wonderful learning opportunities. It was agreed that this year was even more successful than the previous year, as some of the minor issues noted the previous year had been addressed by the centre following feedback. We look forward to a repeat trip next year!

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2017

Mrs Branch presented a summary of the school priorities for the next year, discussing some of the priorities contained within the School Development Plan.

In particular, she discussed plans for the school to complete a project linked to the principles of developing a 'growth mindset' culture within the school. She explained that this is a self-perception theory that people hold about themselves: we want our children to have 'growth' mindsets, where they believe their most basic abilities can be developed and built upon through dedication and hard work, that brains and talent are just starting points. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential to success. Pupils who embrace growth mindsets – the belief that they can learn more or become smarter if they work hard and persevere – may learn more, learn it more quickly, and view challenges and failures as opportunities to improve their learning and skills. This is opposed to fixed mindsets where one believes that talent alone creates success, without effort. Some of our teachers have been exploring growth mindsets with our pupils but we plan to develop this as a whole school approach next term.

YEAR SIX SATs RESULTS 2016

Mrs Branch shared a copy of this year's year six SATs results, that she noted had also been sent to parents and are on the school website. She reported that we were pleased with the results, given this was the first assessment under the new curriculum and testing arrangements. Our attainment was higher than the national average in all subjects, and was particularly high in reading. Our progress in writing was not as strong as we had hoped but Mrs Branch noted that writing is assessed internally by individual schools and we very much erred on the side of caution when making our assessments. The criteria are also very tight and we will be working on our weaker areas this year.

Once the new school development plan has been approved by governors, a summary will be placed on the school website under the 'Information' tab.

PTA FUNDING

Mrs Branch explained that last year's money had been used for trips, as we have previously, as well as purchasing new picnic tables and providing children with an ice cream for sports day. For the forthcoming year, we plan to continue using the majority of the funding for school trips. This year the focus will be on art, with visits to either art galleries or similar. Alternatively, classes can visit a religious building but with an element of art incorporated into the visit. Some money will also be used to fund an artist in residence to work on a mural in our wildlife garden, with a focus on our newly established school values and motto. Finally, there will be money for an ice cream after sports day!

SCHOOL VALUES AND MOTTO

Mrs Branch explained that the school had narrowed down the range of mottos to two and these are currently being voted on by the pupils. The two shortlisted choices are:

- Work together, achieve together
- Learning for a better tomorrow

YEAR SIX HOMEWORK

Mrs Branch explained that it has been school policy that, even though we expect children to complete their homework and encourage them to do so, we do not actively sanction children who do not complete it. There may be some children who do not receive support at home or encouragement to complete their homework or, indeed, be given the time and space in which to do so. It would seem unfair, therefore, that those children are repeatedly sanctioned. However, as a school, we are considering whether to change this policy for our year six pupils. We have a number of year six pupils who are not completing their homework. The school believes that, by this point, children can make sure they find the time to complete their homework and do it independently. It is also very important that, by year six, they are in a good routine with their homework, in preparation for the increased homework at secondary, and where they will be sanctioned if it is not completed. We are currently in discussions, therefore, about amending the policy so that year six pupils are now sanctioned if they fail to complete homework. This would most likely take the form of staying in at lunchtime to complete any homework not completed at home. Mrs Branch asked the parents for their view on the proposal and those present agreed that imposing sanctions for year six pupils would be a good idea in year six. Mrs Branch will make a decision in due course following further consultation with staff.

MATTERS ARISING

PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Parents present were asked to promote the Christmas Fayre this year, which we are only able to run because our year six pupils will be helping out on the stall. Parents asked if the parents of these pupils could have time slots as soon as possible and Mrs Branch said she would organise this as soon as possible.

KITCHEN MENUS

A representative asked if the new autumn menus could be in place earlier in the autumn term, as it was getting a little late on to still have picnic lunch on the menu. Mrs Branch apologised for there having been a bit of a delay this term and hoped that in the future this would not happen. She did explain that the menus had now been sorted and sent to parents and would begin on Monday. Parents present confirmed they had received the new menu and that a number of parents had already said the new menu seemed good and were pleased that 'fish Friday' is now only every other week rather than weekly.

END OF DAY EXITING ARRANGEMENTS

Parents reported that the end of day exiting arrangements for those pupils exiting into the main playground seemed very chaotic and asked that this could be reviewed. The main issues noted were as follows:

- There was a lot of congestion on the steps and it was hard for children to see their parents and vice versa
- There are still a very small minority of parents who go up to the teacher and try talking to them about things when the teacher is still ensuring the children have been collected.

Mrs Branch noted that it was unacceptable for those parents to interrupt the teacher, as this compromised the safety of the children and their safe dismissal. The small number of parents who do this must wait until all children are collected, as do other parents. Mrs Branch will send a reminder to parents about this matter and remind teachers they must be firm but polite with any parents who try to distract them from their core focus at that time. Mrs Branch will also speak to the staff to see how we can re-organise the exiting arrangements so that there is less congestion and the collection time is quicker. Parents will be informed of any changes that we make.

FAMILY LEARNING WORKSHOPS

One of the representatives asked if there would be any more family learning workshops, similar to those that took place last year. Mrs Branch reported that, unfortunately, the attendance at these sessions was very poor. They are provided free of charge but there has to be a minimum number of

attendees in order for them to be viable. Sadly, despite it being heavily promoted by the school and with parents being contacted directly, we did not have enough parents interested and the providers were unable to run them again. We will continue to run subject related workshops for parents going forward. However, Mrs Branch reported that over the last year, we have run some more personalised 1-1 workshops for parents of target children. As these had been much more personalised, these had been much more of a success as the content was closely matched to the needs of the pupil and the parent.

The school is also planning another E-safety workshop for parents in the summer term (just before the school holidays when children are more prone to spending more time on electronics. Mrs Branch explained that we have previously had poor uptake from parents and queried the best time. Parents felt 6:30 pm would, on balance, be the best time.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will take place at 9:00 am on **Friday 3rd February 2017** in the community room.

