

**Minutes of Parents in Partnership Meeting  
Community Room, Sunnymede Junior School  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Present:	Name	Role	Class
	Ronnie Branch	Headteacher	
	Gail Oliver	PA to Headteacher	
	Lucy Moffat	Parent Representative	3K
	Ruth Coppell	Parent Representative	3M
	Suzanne Kelly	Parent Representative	5C
	Kate Smith	Parent Representative	6B

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Mrs Branch welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were received from Mrs Chapman, Mrs Vickers, Mrs Kam, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Freestone.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

**3. Parking**

Mrs Branch outlined the ongoing issues with parking around both the Meadoway and Mons Avenue entrances. Generally parents have been very supportive of our requests to park considerately, sensibly and legally. There are still, however, some parents who persist in parking on the hatchings, double yellow lines and on the bend in Mons Avenue. This week the coach collecting Year 3 for their school trip was unable to stop and park safely due to the inconsiderate parking and dropping off. When parents were challenged some, but not all, were contrite. Apologies have subsequently been received and a letter has been sent to individual parents where appropriate. Mrs Branch invited the PIP representatives to look samples of banners that remind drivers of their responsibilities and road safety around schools. If purchased, the banner would be displayed between the Infant School entrance and the side entrance to the Junior School in Mons Avenue. PIP representatives wholeheartedly agreed that this would be a great idea and assured Mrs Branch of parental support. They selected a banner that they felt would be most effective in making parents think twice about parking outside.

**4. Pond Area**

Mrs Branch invited the PIP representatives to look at the new paving and gates surrounding the pond area. It was agreed that this was a great addition and improved safety. We also have new picnic tables and Mr Evans will be jet washing the decking over half term, making the whole area clean and tidy for the children enjoying picnic lunches.

**5. Audio Visual Equipment**

Mrs Branch advised that we have invested in new audio visual equipment in the school hall. A new projector and a remote controlled screen which links directly to a lap top and sound system will greatly enhance our assemblies and other events.

**6. NSPCC Workshops**

There was discussion regarding the recent NSPCC assembly and the upcoming Year 5 and Year 6 workshops. Mrs Branch circulated copies of the booklet that will be sent home to parents after the workshops, giving advice about online safety and safeguarding. PIP representatives were supportive of the initiative and the Big Buddy Workout fundraising event.

**7. Lost Property**

It was agreed that there has been an improvement in the amount of lost property left in the playground after school.

**8. Fish Fingers**

Concern was raised at the last meeting about fish fingers being offered every Friday. Having spoken to the catering manager, Mrs Branch advised that fewer children preferred the whole piece of fish previously offered and that there is a greater take up when fish fingers are offered. Budgets and

history of meals taken inform our decisions when menus are chosen, which is why fish fingers appear on the menu on both weeks.

#### **9. Picnic Lunch**

Mrs Branch reported that there had not been a great uptake for the picnic lunch offered in the summer term. A PIP representative suggested that parents may not be keen to pay for what is seen as a packed lunch. The weather has prevented the children from eating their picnic on the school field, as it has been too wet. It is hoped that, as the weather improves, there may be a greater uptake.

#### **10. Playground Surface**

It was with pleasure that Mrs Branch was able to advise that county surveyors will survey the playground during half term and have agreed, in principle, that they will re-surface the main playground, address the drainage issues and provide new markings. County have agreed to part fund the project which is tremendous news for the school.

#### **11. Homework**

Mrs Branch requested feedback regarding homework following the concerns raised at the last meeting. It was agreed that there was generally more of a balance.

#### **12. Soap**

Following concern over the lack of soap available in the toilets, Mrs Branch assured PIP representatives that she has spoken to Mr Evans. It was agreed that soap is more generally available.

#### **13. Behaviour Policy**

Mrs Branch advised that the trial of the new behaviour system where children are kept in at playtime to discuss their entry in the behaviour log. This has proved to be very successful and will continue after half term.

#### **14. Sports**

Feedback from parents suggested that there was no incentive for the children to participate in netball, as they had not played in any matches or friendly games against other schools and netball had often been cancelled. Mrs Branch advised that some of our children are reluctant to participate in tournaments but enjoy the weekly activity. As a school we do encourage participation and have recently had a great deal of success in tag rugby, football and golfing tournaments. There are a number of events scheduled for the remainder of this term and the new academic year, including a girls' football tournament. A parent suggested that there may be talented but reluctant children who need encouragement to get involved. It was agreed that, where such children are identified, parents will be advised in advance of a tournament to assist with encouragement and participation. Mrs Branch also agreed to speak to relevant staff members about netball club cancellations and to try and organise a netball match.

#### **15. Staff Dress Code**

A PIP representative tabled a question from a parent regarding our staff dress code. It has been noticed that some members of staff are wearing sports clothes quite frequently. Children are not permitted to wear sports clothes on PE days but staff do and this may send out a mixed message. Is it possible for teaching staff to change ahead of PE? Mrs Branch agreed to raise the concern at a staff meeting and will feedback at the next meeting.

#### **16. Kingswood Residential Trip**

Parents reported a measure of anxiety amongst children due to attend the residential trip in September. Mrs Branch reassured them that further information and a meeting is scheduled after half term which will, hopefully, address any questions and allay any anxiety. There was a suggestion from a representative that perhaps an overnight stay at a residential venue nearer to home may be an idea for Year 5 students in preparation for the longer stay away in Year 6. Mrs Oliver will investigate possible

venues and prices and report back at the next meeting.

**17. Any Other Business**

A PIP representative personally thanked Mrs Branch for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday coin received by the children. It was most appreciated and will be a treasured memento of the occasion.

A PIP representative tabled the idea of nominating Mr Gamble for a Blue Peter Badge in recognition of the volunteering commitment he has demonstrated to children and staff over the past eight years. It was agreed that this was a wonderful idea and Mrs Oliver will write to Blue Peter with a nomination.

**The date of the next meeting is \_\_\_\_\_ To be confirmed**

