

**STREETS BROOK INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL**  
**SOLIHULL NUTRITION ACTION GROUP - STREETS BROOK**

**MEETING 24 SEPTEMBER 2015 9.15am**

**Present**

Debbie Butlin (Business Manager and FFL Champion)  
Nicola Danks (School Cook)  
Zoe Jones (Lunchtime Playleader)  
Faye Lowe (Parent)  
Sandra Morris (Grandparent)  
Kate Moxley (Childcare Manager)  
Claire Pattie (Parent)  
Marilyn Phipps (Minutes)  
Sandra Taylor (Solihull Catering)  
Naomi Troughton (Parent and Growing Champion)  
Zoe Ward (Foundation Stage Leader and FFL Lead Teacher)

**Apologies**

Jacqui Webb (Solihull Catering)

**Welcome and Introduction**

DB welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the new school year, extending particular thanks to the new community and staff members who have joined this group as well as participants of long standing for their continued support.

Each member of the group introduced themselves and ST gave apologies from Jacqui Webb who had hoped to be able to attend but was unable to join us.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting - 21 April 2015**

ST's suggestion of a 'Smiley Face' system for pupil review of school meals will be implemented this year. ST explained that this will help catering to plan meals that children really enjoy and thus contribute to reducing food waste; a criterion for FFL Gold.

The Parent Partnership Group was given information about the FFL scheme and as a result new parents have joined the SNAG.

Changes and improvements to the school hall have had to be put on hold for the moment because of financial constraints but the upgrade of the facilities remains a priority and will be implemented as soon as funds allow.

Empty Classroom Day was a huge success. Children enjoyed the picnic lunches and ND observed that when children go on out of school visits the school provided lunch boxes are also very popular. This day provided a link to the school's ECO work as no gas or electrical equipment was used in the kitchen and so energy savings were made.

DB showed the group photographs from the Streetsbrook Market Day which was extremely well attended and provided excellent community links to local businesses and Sharmans Cross School who ran stalls.

**Universal Free School Meals - Review and Future Developments**

The government is considering removing funding for UFSM. The group was unanimous in its support for the continuation of this funding. At Streetsbrook School the impact has been significant as only 7 pupils now bring a packed lunch from home and children are trying food they have never tried before. This school is beacon example of what can be achieved when school, parents, children and catering work together. In the next academic year (2016-17) all pupils will have a school meal as packed lunches from home will have been phased out.

As well as the negative impact on children jobs will be lost as new catering and supervisory staff have been appointed since the scheme was introduced.

DB asked parents in the group for their opinions and they were overwhelmingly in favour of UFSM. CP noted that at Streetsbrook the variety of foods on offer are good and as a working parent she is reassured that her child is eating a nutritious meal.

ND told the group that UFSM was going really well and that she is having to order more vegetables as children are being served more than they were in the past. ND's only concern is that not all children are able to have their meal of choice very day as items run out. Parents agreed that this was the case. ST suggested that Year 2 children could always go into lunch last having pre-ordered their meal but it was acknowledged that children often change their minds when they actually see the food on offer. Pictures of meals will go on the website and this solution might work.

School has committed significant funding to the appointment of Zoe Jones as a Lunchtime Playleader and a lunchtime supervisor for every class. This has got off to a promising start.

KM commented that the salad bar is very appealing with pasta, rice and noodles on offer. The fact that Year 2 children are helping to serve the younger pupils, suggesting what they might like to try, is proving to be a success.

DB thanked ND for her hard work and commitment to working with parents re dietary needs of their children.

DB said that she is going to propose an action to the staff that they have lunch in the hall with the children. So many children need teaching how to use a knife and fork (many use fingers or a spoon) and staff eating with the children will help to promote the healthy eating messages. DB will be working with Mrs Minter to drive this forward as FFL developments will be more effective if driven by the Headteacher.

Parent lunches are now more tricky to accommodate as the hall capacity is reduced due to increased pupil lunches but parents are more than welcome to come and eat with their child any day of the week rather than on 'special occasions'. DB will ensure that parents are made aware of this. CP suggested letting parents know what the Gold criteria are in the newsletter

Parents will be offered the chance to dine with their child when it is their child's birthday or following a curriculum workshop. KM said that she would think of a way of organising something at the end of the school day for working parents.

ST acknowledged that the biggest inhibitor to achieving the Gold award is the catering standard. The group asked ST to find out what the difference in cost would be between non-organic and organic vegetables and whether the Gold criteria could be met by Solihull Catering just for Streetsbrook School, as was done for another school in the LA some years ago to ensure that they received their Silver Award. DB stated her eagerness to meet with the head of catering if this proves to be a problem.

## **ACTIONS**

- **ST will email a link to the online UFSM petition**
- **ST to pursue the issue of meeting the Gold standard for Streetsbrook**
- **DB to liaise with Mrs Minter re FFL developments and staff lunches**
- **FFL weekly newsletter to promote parent lunch opportunities and inform parents of the FFL Gold criteria.**

## **School Chef Appointment**

With the appointment of ND as the new school cook, this item is being put on hold as Nicola has had such a positive impact already and this needs time to develop further.

## **Sugar Rush**

This agenda item derives from the work of Jamie Oliver and his focus on the issue of hidden sugars in food. NT raised the problem that although children are generally very aware of healthier options especially with regard to sugar consumption, the message does not always get through to parents. This is evident in drinks that are sent in lunch boxes and in the amount of 'sweet treats' that are sent in to school when children celebrate birthdays. The promotion and availability of sweets at PTA functions such as discos was discussed. An overall ban on sweets was agreed to be the way forward and this will be discussed with children first for their views and then raised with parents.

## **ACTION**

- **DB and ZW will raise the issue of sweets as birthday treats with the pupil SNAG group and will take their proposals to Mrs Minter.**

## **Going Forward**

The children in the SNAG will have badges this year which they will be able to keep when they leave the school.

The whole school will be joining FFL promotions such as Roast Dinner Day and Breakfast Day. During the week in which Breakfast Day falls children will take home a diary sheet so that they can record their daily breakfasts that week.

A governor will be invited to join the SNAG along with a representative from Asda with whom the school has done a lot of work and the newly appointed teacher of cookery who takes up post this academic year.

ST explained to the group how government funding is applied based on the numbers of children having a school meal on census day. During that upcoming week Solihull Catering will be offering free tasters at lunchtime to children who usually bring a packed lunch. Staff in school will also be asked to have their own taster sessions that week, part funded by catering and part by the school. Parents in the SNAG said they would also come in and dine during that week. This will be a massive promotion for school meals and hopefully the school will reap the benefits. ZW suggested a sticker for every child who tries a school meal that week. ST will arrange these.

## **ACTION**

- **ST to source stickers for children to show that they have eaten a school meal.**

## **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

ZW, NT and DB to meet with children Wednesday 21 October 9.00 - 9.30am  
Full SNAG meeting Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 9.15am