

Minutes from Blossomfield SNAG meeting 15.01.14 (School Nutritional Action Group)

Present:

Claire Hill (FFL lead) Mrs Collingridge (Teaching Assistant Y2)

Debbie Rothwell (Teaching Assistant Rec) Brigitte Gillespie (Cook)

Jacqui Webb and Jane Loose (Solihull Catering)

Naomi Meads (Lunch Time Supervisor/parent Yr2) Mrs Eastough (Yr 1 parent/Gov
Ruby, Frank, Layton and Darcey (Year 2 reps)

Apologies:

1 & 2 A brief welcome, introduction and apologies took place.

3. Claire played a game on the IWB with the children. This involved the children taking it in turns to choose healthy items for their lunchbox; for example, brown bread instead of white bread for sandwiches.
4. We enjoyed a selection of breads made by Brigitte: garlic and herb bread, tomato bread, cheesy bread, flatbread as well as breadsticks. Claire highlighted the benefit to healthy eating of choosing different types of bread and encouraged children to suggest trying different types of bread to their parents.
5. Claire reported on what children think about lunchtimes. Children's views were gathered during special circle time, during Golden Tea with Mrs Farkas and from Year 2 Busy Books. There were lots of positive comments about lunchtimes: the most significant being that children enjoy the tasty lunches, they like the lunchtime supervisors (!) and the 'special' table on Fridays. Children said that they didn't like the time they spent queuing up for lunch, some Reception children said that they didn't like having to wait until the second sitting for their lunch and some children didn't like being reminded to eat their lunch efficiently! Some said that they would like more lunchtime supervisors to play with, more play equipment and to be able sit with their friends who are having a different meal type-i.e. hot dinners to be able to sit next to friends having sandwiches. Claire said that consideration would be given to this and she and Mrs Farkas would also be discussing options with the lunchtime team to reduce queuing time.
6. Claire reported that since October's SNAG meeting, Blossomfield has been selected as a Food For Life Partnership (FFL) 'Super Blogger' for its monthly blogs. This is thanks to Emma Collier's (Yr 1 Teaching Assistant) monthly food blogs. Since October's meeting, Emma has written blogs about the success of the recent Roast Dinner promotion and the Christmas lunch at the end of last term.
7. Claire talked about what has been achieved since October's meeting:
 - The Bronze Award Renewal; This has been achieved by the submitting details of various initiatives such as the Asian food afternoon that took place during last year's Summer Term which fulfils one of the FFL Community and Partnership's criteria.

- Plates and Bowls: Brigitte reported on how well Yr 1 children have adapted to the recent introduction of using plates and bowls instead of flight trays. Jane from Solihull Catering confirmed that Solihull Catering have been given the budget to purchase more plates and cups for September 2014. She added that it is a school decision to keep trays from September 2014 for Reception or go straight to using plates and bowls for all year groups. Jacqui added that it is in the Government's School Food Plan to use plates and bowls in September with Jane adding that if plates and bowls are introduced to Reception at Easter it will prepare children better for using them in September. Jane suggested that a separate meeting would be necessary to take this discussion forward.
 - Claire reported that regular meetings have taken place between her and Brigitte where meal promotions have been considered. Brigitte briefly talked about the Valentines meal promotion (19 February) and the Mother's Day meal promotion (26 March). Claire recommended an earlier start to lunchtimes for meal promotions particularly for the Mother's Day lunch. The Big Breakfast is taking place through Breakfast Club (starting on 16 January) and Mrs Loose highlighted that the Big Breakfast is not part of the lunchtime provision).
 - Improved blogs have been reflected in the success of the monthly blogs and consultation with children regarding lunchtimes has demonstrated that the class council is an effective process to capture children's views.
 - **?Have emails been sent to farmer?** The Year 1 visit to the Southfields farm in Coleshill was discussed in terms of how well the visit links with the Silver Award criteria and the emails from Yr 1 pupils to the farmer also achieves part of the food education criteria.
 - Claire circulated a food in school policy for review. Jane from Solihull Catering queried whether this document had been compared to what is written in the Government's School Food Plan (SFP) and advised that a food in school policy needs to be merged with this document. She recommended that a cold meal option is not offered as part of the proposed 'free' school lunch menu.
8. Latest news on 'free' lunches for all infant aged children. Claire said that she was disappointed that to date the Government had not been forthcoming with any more information about this. Prior to the SNAG meeting in their meeting with Bernie, Jane and Jacqui said that they highlighted the value of the short (approx 3 minute)

animation which forms part of the latest promotion of the School Food Plan. They highly recommended viewing the animation which we did so and it was endorsed as a powerful communication tool. Claire suggested that the animation of the SFP is put on the school website as parents need to understand that the SFP is a Government initiative and not one originating from school. Mrs Meads suggested if children at Blossomfield had the opportunity to watch the animation, they would be able to learn about the benefit of having school dinners.

Claire highlighted the potential opposition that may arise when the option of bringing packed lunches is replaced with hot dinners across school. Jane advised that parents who do not wish their children to have hot dinners need to have an opportunity to discuss this further; particularly in the context of catering for children with allergies. Claire said that she would speak to Mrs Farkas and Parent Partnership about how best to approach this.

9. Claire said that she would use the school website, Governors and Parent Partnership for consultation with the wider community on FFL matters.
10. A brief review was made of the action plan and where we are with our application for the FFL Silver Award. As growing champion, Mrs Collingridge confirmed that she is aiming to issue every child in school with a seed to achieve the community and partnerships criteria. Jacqui questioned the need to set up an extended cooking club given the fact that school already involves children in many cooking activities during the school day. Claire will continue to put a recipe on the school website which will feature termly not monthly.
11. Claire outlined the current initiative of organising a Blossomfield Show for 2014 where children/parents can bring home grown produce and home-made items such as jam, cakes to display. Claire emphasised that the show would be separate to the PTA Summer Fair.
Jacqui endorsed the view that it would be good to have a demonstration/talk from a local food producer, such as a Solihull beekeeper. Claire agreed to find out if a local beekeeper would be interested in participating in the show.

Date for next meeting: Thursday April 3rd at 2.15pm.