

# SPRINGFIELD School Home School Association Meeting Minutes



**Date & Time** 06/11/2023 18:00  
**Location** Springfield School

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Class Representing</b>
	Christina Ferreira	Reception
	Amy Hamon	Year 1
	Jen Gibb	Year 2
	Tania Moniz	Year 2
	Leanne Duffy	Year 3
	Sian Parmiter	Year 3
	Marius Sliwka	Year 6
	Stacey Hedley	(Outgoing Treasurer)
	Mal Robson	Head Teacher

## 1. Welcome

Mal Robson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and for the benefit of new members outlined the format of the meeting, and his own role within in, in the absence of a parent chair.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Laura Tadier, Elsa Presume, Mariana Bodea and Anthea Carroll.

## 3. School update

Mal Robson advised that the school had emerged largely intact from **storm Ciarán**; some trees had come down, with others damaged, but these had been swiftly dealt with by tree surgeons and deemed safe. Mr McCormack had removed debris blocking areas of the playground and wider site. There was some minor water damage in the Year 2 classroom affecting lighting tiles; as a result Year 2 would be using the spare (formerly Year 5) classroom for a week, allowing tradesmen access to complete repairs. The children seemed comfortable and happy in their temporary space (and liked its proximity to the playground) so this was a good solution for everyone.

Assembly on Monday morning had been devoted to discussion about storm Ciarán; including what the children may have seen, and any worries they might have had. The overriding message was reassuring; there was damage across the island but everyone was safe. The Education Department had sent through a video designed to validate emotions and encourage children to communicate their feelings. Children responded well to this and it was a positive session.

At the time of the HSA meeting, it was unclear whether planned teacher **strike days** on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November would go ahead. Education ministers were meeting with the States Employment Board and NEU and the outcome was not yet known. Mal clarified that the NEU was the only union currently planning full strike action. The NASWUT had cancelled their own strike action having agreed to further talks around reviewing terms & conditions (which are due an update) – so they were on ‘action short of strike’ or working to rule. The NHT (head teachers union) have accepted a settlement and are no longer on strike. Mal explained that most teachers are members of one or both unions, but Heads are not permitted to ask which - or whether they are taking strike action. Staff are under no obligation to give advance notice; they simply have to let Heads know on the morning of the strike if they are striking. Although, in reality, many do give more warning, it remains very difficult to manage and make informed decisions about school closures.

Mal advised that the latest report on school attainment data, based on the Jersey Primary Assessment Framework (JPAF) was now on the website. It charts data for different areas of attainment across Years 2 and 6, with reference to SEND and Jersey premium and is useful for planning. The profile of Springfield pupils was presented alongside data for all schools.

Deputy Inna Gardiner, the Children’s and Education Minister, had visited the school over lunchtime on 6<sup>th</sup> November, mainly to see school meals being served and enjoyed by the children. She sat in the hall with them, talked with them, and was full of praise for how the scheme has been implemented. Mal advised that uptake was very high; about 130 of a possible 176 children were having hot school meals. The Minister had also stayed to meet with Mal about other school priorities and funding issues – overall it was a very positive and supportive visit.

In relation to school meals, there had been a mix up; half term week was listed on the caterers schedule as week 1, but the ordering system ignored half term and treated the following week as week 1. The result was that children were served week 2 meals when they were expecting week 1 meals. This had caused some confusion, but no-one had gone hungry; the children received the expected Week 1 meals in week 2, and the system would be back to normal from next week.

Finally, as part of the old Healthy Schools agenda, the school had been offered an opportunity for Reception children to try a fruit and veg tasting programme; there was now an expanded offer of free fruit (from farm shops) every day for all year groups. Promoting healthy eating, this was another very welcome initiative which complemented the new hot school meals (and helped families on tight budgets).

#### 4. Treasurer update

Leanne Duffy (Treasurer) provided the following update on the HSA accounts. Incoming funds totalled £65, and expenses £905, broken down as follows.

##### Incoming

Second hand uniform	£65
	<b>£65</b>

##### Outgoing

Year 5 St. Aubins Activities July 2023	£400
Activity charges	£0.40
Account maintenance fee	£5.00
Go Wild Tortoise	£500.00
	<b>£905.00</b>

In reserve was £150 for the Year 5/6 reading corner and £511.40 for ADHD resources.

There were also three new funding requests – all of which were approved by those present:

- £354.14 was sought for KS1 outdoor clothing; to replace worn-out sunhats, aprons and other protective items for water or sand play and similar activities.
- Anthea Carroll had asked for £879.96 for new football goals – £879.96 – the existing ones had been well used for PE and clubs and had deteriorated to the extent that they were beyond repair.
- £450 was requested to cover fifteen £30 COOP vouchers to supplement food hampers for families in need of help with the additional costs of Christmas. (*Update: Stacey has purchased the vouchers this year using HSA funds; in previous years these had been purchased on Anthea Carroll's purchase card to be reimbursed later.*)

In relation to the Christmas hampers, Mal advised that there would be an appeal for items in December.

Mal added that multicultural day, before the end of last term, had raised a small amount of money for the HSA, but other benefits of the day were more valuable. 24 cultures were represented and the extended assembly had a celebratory atmosphere with lots of learning and talking. It had also supported rich displays of language and culture on boards around the school.

#### 5. Fundraising for this term

The first fundraising event of the term would be Children in Need day (in line with the national event, on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November), with a theme of “be spot-tacular”. Children would be able to wear their own clothing, ideally spotty or brightly coloured, in return for donations to the charity appeal. On the day, children would have the chance to see some thought-provoking videos, and learn about how money raised by Children in Need appeals was spent close to home, in Jersey, as well as elsewhere.

Secondly, it was agreed to hold another uniform sale with morning (8.15-9am) and afternoon (2.30 – 3.15) slots. Mal undertook to check the school diary and issue a request for parent support. Likely dates included 14<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> November (or a subsequent Tuesdays or Thursday).

As before, union members being on action short of strike limited the school's capacity to run fundraising events. It was agreed to go ahead with dress up days etc which did not require changes to working hours or duties. Christmas jumper day would be in December (date tbc).

Mal also said that holding a raffle was fairly straightforward, with minimal demands on staff, but that he felt that local businesses should probably be given a 'year off' providing prizes. It was suggested that perhaps other organisations, such as trust companies or other financial services firms, could be approached this year, to sponsor vouchers from some of the usual providers (such as The Entertainer, WHSmith or Waterstones) – and / or provide some branded items if they had any spare. Mal agreed to revisit the list of those who had been approached and perhaps approach some new firms. Either way, another source of prizes was secure, as a result of the school's new agreement with Jersey Bulls, whereby in return for weekend parking on the school site, they provided free tickets for matches (home games this season) along with lots of merchandise; including signed shirts, beanies and scarves before Christmas. Mal had also received some passes from the Jersey Sport Camp (also in return for holiday parking) and this year they were expecting 4 free places for football courses (usually £150 a place for a week) and 4 more half-price places. (Mal advised that other income from groups such as clubs using school facilities went directly into the school fund, and was used to cover and subsidise the costs associated with trips and additional classroom resources. Whereas it was straightforward to rent out the school hall, for example, it was much more problematic to charge for and oversee access to car parking – and therefore the arrangement whereby other benefits were provided worked well.) Mal will also pursue trust fund companies etc for sponsoring vouchers.

## **6. Any other business**

Mal agreed to check with Anthea Carroll about planned meeting dates for the new Rights Respecting Steering Group, following elections last term.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. (Usually, meetings would be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the half term, but an exception was agreed in this case as the first school week of January was a short one.