

Snag Meeting Wednesday, July 12th

Waiters and Waitresses

Is going well and the children enjoy helping others. If children are not able to attend then they must give notice. Demi-leigh to inform all waiters and waitresses

Allotment

We all agreed the allotment needed a gardener who could commit a few hours a week to help with the upkeep. We will advertise the role in a newsletter to see if anyone would like to volunteer. WE discussed the idea of crowdfunding where money could be raised via the crowdfunder website to pay a gardener to produce vegetables to sell to the kitchen and explore possible partnerships with community organisations. The aim would be to be self-funding after a while. We decided to see if anyone would like to volunteer first then explore the crowdfunder idea.

Food Conference

We discussed the idea of holding a food conference at Hillstone. The aim is to invite other schools and interested parties to share experiences and ideas and improve food education in our area. Chef, Mrs Sparrow Mrs Sheenan and Lynn the gardener will visit Charlton Manor School in south London to learn from their experiences of holding a food conference

Menu

It was agreed by all the menu design could be a little brighter so the children present at the SNAG meeting will submit ideas.

Menu Content

All children were consulted on what they would like to see on the menu. Chef will highlight the dishes the children have chosen on the new menu.

Farmers Market

It was proposed to have the next Farmers market in October to fall in line with the harvest from the allotment

Food ambassador

We discussed the role of food ambassador. It would be a parent who has some knowledge about our aims regarding food and food education. They would be a point of contact for other parents if they have a query about food issues. It is hoped that it would improve communication and other parents would feel more comfortable to ask questions to another parent. Chef will discuss with Mrs Sparrow.

The meeting was the first for year 5 children who continued, like the year 6 children before them to be great contributors to the discussions. They were attentive and comments were perceptive and to the point. They are a credit to Hillstone Primary. Well done children.

SNAG meeting Wed 29th March

Hillstone farmers market

We discussed the progress of the farmers market and discussed what will be on offer. It was reported that all year groups now have their own project and are producing something to sell at the market. We will have food stalls selling food using organic and locally sourced ingredients and we will showcase our local suppliers. We will ask Mr Farr to provide musical entertainment. We will run a scarecrow competition as well! We will ask the after school club to design some posters to advertise the event and put it in the diary on the website. We would also like to film the event.

Questionnaire

We talked about conducting another survey to assess what our parents and children think of the food offering along the lines of the one last year and also asking whether they think the food is healthy. We thought it may be a good idea if we had year 6 children asking parents at the end of school in the playground as well as sending it out as well to maximise the response.

Communication

We discussed setting up message groups to inform all stakeholders when the SNAG meetings are and also putting it on the website diary as well.

Lunch box audit

We discussed the last lunch box audit and considered doing another one to check our progress and continue the work we have done in this area already.

Party food

We had a discussion regarding the food we have at parties at school. It was questioned whether as a healthy eating school we should perhaps avoid things like Coca cola and other drinks which contain caffeine and a lot of sugar. A wider discussion was had about what party food would be appropriate.

The pupil representatives argued that it was there treat that they had earned and so should have the right to choose what they had at the party. It was felt a happy medium could be found and some suggestions for party food that is not unhealthy could be put forward. We also discussed the food that was taken on residential and how we could improve this. We acknowledged that time and facilities were issues to consider and thought that we could do better. It is just a question of getting together to produce a new menu and shopping lists.

Cooking with Hillstone

We had a brief update of how the scheme was going and suggested we encourage staff to take up the scheme.

Sandwich boxes for trips

We are currently investigating suitable sandwich boxes that are more practical for use on school trips.

AOB

We had a general discussion about how far the school had come in terms of our food and how we think about food. We don't just think about our lunch offering and snacks but also global issues and political issues that affect us. The adults who were in attendance were AGAIN extremely impressed with the intelligent and thoughtful contributions of our year 6 representatives. They contributed substantially to every issue we discussed today and should be immensely proud of their contributions

SNAG Meeting Wed 10th May

Date of next meeting is Tue 6th June to discuss the Farmers market and the next full SNAG meeting will be 12th July.

We agreed that this will go on the website and group calls will be organised. The minutes will go up on the website as well.

Questionnaire

We decide to conduct another questionnaire along the same lines as the one we did last year but will add a question asking whether it is the students choice or parents' choice to have cooked lunches or bring sandwiches.

We will ask some year 6 children to conduct the questionnaire in the play grounds after school, engaging with parents who are picking up their children.

We will ask the after school club to do the same when parents come to pick up children there.

Farmers Market

All year groups are busy creating their items to sell at the market. We will email teachers to ask them to provide a decorated table to put their products on to sell.

We discussed finish times for the children to attend the market which starts at 3pm.

We are running a scarecrow competition for the allotment and discussed advertising it generate interest and will produce a flyer. All entrants to be in for Friday 9th June.

We will have a raffle to promote Cooking with Hillstone to win bags for 4 people.

Food for Life

We discussed our progress. We have contacted The Oval school who have a gold award to see if we can visit them to learn how they achieved gold.

We need to escalate our growing programme in the allotment and discussed the challenges we face. We will ask parents and grandparents if there is anyone willing to help out and get the allotment producing food all year round.

We will organise a trip for the gardening club to Ryton on Dunsmore organic farming centre to learn more about organic gardening / farming techniques

We need to achieve a 90% uptake of free school meals in order to be awarded silver and gold. We discussed how we could do this including insisting that the New Year one children carry on with their 100% participation in having school lunches. We felt this had been a success and was popular. We will explore other initiatives in order to encourage take up of free school meals right across the year groups.