

MINUTES OF INFANT AND JUNIOR PARENT FORUM

Wednesday 4 May 2011, 7.00pm

1. Feedback on Action Taken Since the Last Parent Forum:

- a. Parking – Mrs Jones now regularly patrols Melbourne Avenue before and after school to try and discourage parents from obstructing the crossing area and turning into the driveways of the Infant and Junior buildings.

Senior School parents have also been noted waiting on Melbourne Ave and causing an obstruction/hazard. Mrs Dunsford will raise this at next week's Senior Parent Forum.

- b. The SIMS Learning Gateway for parents to access data held by school about their daughters has been launched to one year group in the Senior School. Once teething problems have been ironed out we will be able to roll it out to other year groups.

2. School uniform:

- Winter Coats: some problems have been reported with the seams coming apart. A new supplier has been sourced to produce the same design.
- Navy cardigans: a parent enquired whether the summer navy cardigan could be worn with winter uniform. We feel it is important to distinguish between the senior school winter jumpers and cardigans which are navy and Melbourne House girls who wear jade, so the navy cardigan will remain for the summer dress only.
- Summer dresses: some reception parents raised concerns about the cost of the summer dress, stripes fading, difficulty of ironing and difficulty removing stains. We will follow up all of these issues with the supplier of the summer dress.
- Online ordering: GDST is considering introducing a cashless system for paying for uniform/school trips etc. We have recently introduced a system for ordering uniform by email on uniformshop@she.gdst.net and uniform can then be collected and paid for in the uniform shop.

3. Health and Safety: School playground improvements:

Following concerns raised last term about the area at the back of Melbourne House which runs between the uniform shop and the netball court, work was carried out levelling the path in this area during the Easter holidays. We are now waiting for railings to be delivered to complete the work.

4. Transport:

- The Walking Bus scheme has been very well received this year. The Sixth formers currently helping with the scheme will begin their final examinations at the end of this month and we will therefore be looking to recruit some new volunteers to take over so that the scheme can be continued
- Transport from Lodge Moor: we are currently looking into the possibility of starting a school minibus run from Lodge Moor and will be in touch with parents living in that area if this looks feasible.

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the meeting and to all those who submitted items for discussion.

The autumn term 2011 meeting will revert to an afternoon meeting.