



Currently in Class 1 there is no area for wet or sand play to be safely carried out, no large floor space for group teaching and no quiet area for reading; also Class 1 has to be walked through to access the school hall or the office. These plans would rectify all these areas, however a great deal of research/planning has to be carried out by the Head/Governing Body before such a project can go ahead. The Chair continued that the Land Development/School Garden was also progressing well and would hope to be completed this summer. He also added that this project had been funded by a grant from the Landfill Tax (£4,900) and not from the the LEA or the School Budget, therefore there had been no conflict of interest

Sport and Outdoor Activities - The Chair mentioned some of the many sports covered as listed on page 10 of the Governors Report, he also thanked Mrs. V. Smith for her work involved with the school obtaining the Sport England 'Active Mark'. Children from years 3 - 6 had also had the opportunity to take part in rock climbing and orienteering on a combined initiative with other small schools in the vicinity.

OFSTED - it has been quite some time since the last inspection and LAMPS is currently awaiting notice of the next one; 6-10 weeks notice is given and the school will be inspected sometime within the next 18 months. The school hopes to do even better than last time but it would be very difficult to achieve this!

Phase I of the new footpath from The Green up Pitt Lane was completed approximately a year ago and Phase II is now well underway. The Chair wished to thank D. Barlow and P. Lloyd for their initiative and input into this project.

Budget - The Chair pointed out that the school was in a very healthy position financially, having received more money in recent years from the current government than was previously the case

The Chair concluded by reading from the Annual Report -

"The school continues to enjoy high standards of achievement for the children, and is actively working to maintain and improve where possible.

There is a happy and contented atmosphere; the governors intend to further enhance this with the addition of the landscaped garden, and continued attention to curriculum and to building projects."

The Head Teacher added that he felt the school was in a very good position, he thanked Mrs. Backhouse and Mrs. Lloyd for teaching French to all the junior children, and Mrs. Garnett for her work with the Teaching Assistants and all her help with other logistical support.

The Chair then opened the meeting to the floor and asked if there were any questions or comments.

A parent queried whether the 3% authorised absence was a rise, and was it down to the current high levels of illness? The Head replied that this figure also includes holidays taken in term time, and whilst there is currently a strong drive from the government to eliminate this practice, he sympathises with parents as obviously it is not possible for everyone to have their holidays in school holidays. However the figure of 3% is very low and most importantly there are no unauthorised absences.

A parent questioned the fact that the school was under budget on all areas. The Head Teacher replied that this was for several reasons

- policy to carry money forward as a contingency for the building being very old
- The Head Teacher only takes ½ day out of teaching to fulfil some management tasks, whereas it would be considered usual for a Head of a small school to take 2 days out - this all then has to be covered by the cost of supply teachers.

- no long term absences of staff
- the budget is managed very well, and DGB very good at finding 'pots' of money to access for various projects to supplement funds, also latterly the Standards Fund has been available to supplement the budget. e.g. if the boys toilet refurbishment includes access for the disabled then this will be eligible to be completed using Formula Capital Funding.
- the school also earns money by mentoring students.

However Mr. Barlow added that it wasn't long ago that they had struggled to make ends meet and although funds had been more plentiful in recent years, the possibility of war in Iraq may mean a leaner time ahead.

#### A.O.B.

1. A parent asked for details regarding the issue of fruit for all of the infant children. The Head Teacher informed that he had received a folder asking whether the school would be interested in receiving a piece of fresh fruit for all infant children on a daily basis, funded by the New Opportunities Fund which is a branch of the National Lottery. He had replied in a positive fashion, but to date is awaiting further details.
2. A parent enquired whether the school intended to take a firmer approach in the type of snacks brought in by children, being concerned that some children were bringing in chocolate. The Head replied that the school encourages healthy snacking and to this end occasionally sends a letter to parents reinforcing this - he felt that currently (especially since the demise of the village shop) children on the whole were mainly following this policy. A discussion ensued amongst those present.
3. A parent noted that the school had installed the water chiller and enquired whether the children actually used it much at break times, was chilled water what they wanted, did it cause a litter problem and would it be a better idea to have water in the classrooms in bottles so the children could sip the water throughout the day? A member of staff from LAMPS pointed out that there was a choice between chilled and normal water, and that the chilled option probably had more uptake in the summer. A parent who teaches at another school informed that they had tried the water bottles in the classroom for a term and abandoned the project as the children were distracted by this, played with the water and it interfered with teaching. Possibly it was an initiative that may be more successful at secondary schools. Members of staff also pointed out that no child was refused a drink if they requested one. The Head Teacher added that he knew of 3 schools where the initiative had been tried and abandoned, he stated that the children did use the facility at break times and that litter was an issue that was raised on an ongoing basis.
4. A parent asked the Chair for introductions to the other governors - the Chair introduced himself and stated that each governor had included a brief c.v. in the Report to Parents. The governors and staff then took turns to introduce themselves and state their category of governor.

The meeting closed at 2015hrs. The Chair and Head Teacher thanked everyone for attending and invited them to partake of the cheese and wine refreshments provided.