



PTA Meeting Minutes - Thursday, 23rd January

Attendees

- Paul Davis
- Jo Swanson
- Donald Raj
- Emily Hicks
- Pippa Ridout
- Debra Webb
- Roula Chaaya

Apologies from those who could not attend.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the AGM meeting in November were signed off.

Year 3 Participation

It was noted that there was a drop in Year 3 participation. Currently, there is no Class Rep for Year 3. An email will be sent out to Year 3 parents from The Friends, asking if anyone would like to volunteer as the Class Rep.

- Action: Paul to draft the email to send out.

PTA Leavers

With Year 6 moving on at the end of the school year, this will leave a gap in the number of key volunteers that usually help at events. In total, there will be around 3-4 leavers. We need to find more volunteers from KS1 and KS2.

Treasurer Report

It was advised that it would be good to apply for the lottery and easy fundraiser since they require low support and little effort to sign up.

Newsletter Discussion

The newsletter for this term was discussed. It should include class purchases from money raised during events. An idea was suggested to include a video of children showing the use of the purchases made. It was decided to consider this later in the year, possibly after Easter when the weather is better.

Adventure Playground

Emily Hicks advised that the Adventure Playground is currently out of action due to safety concerns. The school has obtained a couple of quotes. Emily will provide the final quote, which should be around £5,350, and asked if The Friends could pay for it. This amount includes fitting the required part and the bark around the climbing frame to make it safe. There was a unanimous vote for The Friends to pay for this. The school will pay initially, and we will reimburse them.

Pledge Discussion

There was a discussion about the pledge of £250 for classrooms. This discussion will be picked up later in the year.

Artwork Pledge

Emily brought up the topic of brightening up the School Hall with 'educational artwork' around the school. A company was consulted, and they provided advice on what could be done. Emily thought would be a good idea to have the children involved in what they would like to see within the artwork. This will be £2,000 + installation. Would be looking for The Friends to pay for this. Unanimous vote for The Friends to pay for this.

Events

31st January - School Disco

21 helpers signed up at the time of the meeting. 158 children are expected to attend.

Action Item: Update the PTA guide regarding running the disco.

Quiz - 28th February

There was a discussion on whether to move the date due to a conflict with Edgbarrow School's quiz. The decision was made to stick with the originally booked date. The fee will be £10 per person. We will have an honesty bar again, with Jo organizing the bar and Paul being the licensee. Pippa will apply for this on his behalf. Donald volunteered to assist Paul with the quiz night. Pippa will send a list to Paul of people we have contacted previously for raffle prizes. Pippa will also provide clubcard details to Jo for purchasing the alcohol.

AOB

The Big Easter Challenge: This event will raise money for the wall art requested by Emily. More details on the Big Easter Challenge will be sent out, but it will include activities that children can do to raise money during the Easter holidays.

KS1 Guided Reading Books: Currently, KS1 has a shortage of guided reading books. Presently, one child has the actual book while the rest use photocopies. We are looking to expand to have a complete set, which would cost £1,000. Emily is looking to see if The Friends could pay for this, and a unanimous vote for yes was agreed upon.

Reception Sandpit Re-Edging: We will discuss this in the next meeting when we have the costing around this.

Basketball Hoops: There has been a request from the school to have these moved due to damage to guttering and them not being in an appropriate place for the children to enjoy. This will be picked up in the next meeting in March.

Longer term plans include the rejuvenation of the playground. The Governors are taking on this project, but The Friends would like to keep it on their agenda to see if there is anything they can assist with.

Another long-term project is the revamp of the School House to create a suitable area for SEN space. Emily has some innovative ideas, but this will require detailed planning and coordination.

A new initiative for the Pre-Loved uniform clothes. A website called Uniformity will be used to list all items. Parents can also upload items themselves, reducing the workload for The Friends. Debs volunteered to set up and run the site. It is low maintenance, and donations can still be made for the items, keeping them affordable. There are no fees or commissions, making it a great option for providing second-hand uniforms.

Lastly, there's a need to find a new way to communicate for PTA meetings and important updates. The current use of Facebook doesn't seem to capture the entire audience. Could we consider a WhatsApp community? Everyone is encouraged to think about and suggest good options.

Open PTA positions – Secretary and Chair if anyone knows anyone or if anyone would like to do this we can link in to advise them of what is required.