

Friends of the Mead (FOM)

Meeting Thursday 18th January 2018

Minutes

Present: Ruth Campbell, Sarah Morley, Emma Kent, Caroline Bolton, Tamsin Turley, Lucy Renton, Caroline Winning, Toby Dicker, Kirsteen Pitt, Cath Newland, Nicole Morton, Kate Corby, Tammy McIntosh, Ele Dexter, Joanna Disson.

Apologies: James Piggott, Gemma James, Alice Grebot, Claire Chattenton, Lucy Jones, Anna Dixon.

WELCOME

-Sarah Morley, standing in for Chairman James Piggott, welcomed all present and requested any comments from the previous meeting's minutes (none).

2017 WINTER FAYRE

-The Fayre was successful, raising only fractionally less vs. 2016.

-Profitable stalls were flagged verbally and have been officially recorded by the Treasurer.

-The second-hand book stall will not be repeated at the Summer Fayre or next Winter Fayre due to lack of interest. Slide a Disc will also not be repeated due to high prize overheads.

2018 VALENTINES DISCO

- The agreed date for this event is being moved following a clash with the school Mindfulness program. Since the FOM meeting this morning, Mr Webster has suggested the disco take place on the last Friday morning of term, which is 9th February. Juniors will be 9.30-10.30 and Infants 10.30-11.30 (as they will be harder to settle down afterwards). This is a fun and exciting way to round off the term for the children, with no extra-curricular club clashes.

-Tickets for the disco will be available via an online ticketing system (rather than through the teachers), and there will be a purchase deadline. More information on this will follow once Toby Dicker has researched suitable ticketing sites.

***31/1: Update – further to the meeting it has now been decided that the disco will be a non-ticketed event & to have a FoM Own Clothes morning instead with a suggested contribution of £1-2 per child to cover the costs of the DJ etc.*

-Volunteers are needed! Please contact Ruth in the office if you are free to help.

2018 EASTER EVENT

-This year, as a thank you to parents for their continued support, all agreed that participation in the Easter event on March 21st will be free! Additionally, children are not required to make Easter bonnets this year.

The FOM Mission statement is that the charity should: 'Add value to the education of pupils in the school.'

FOM has two key objectives: to raise money for activities or items that add value to the children's lives at The Mead School and to create a more cohesive community of parents and teachers at the school.

-Event details are still to be agreed but it will likely involve pairs of pupils (one Junior + one Infant) working together to find items hidden around the grounds. Chocolate rewards will be handed out and a giant bunny might be present too (volunteer needed!). This is a fun format that worked well at Mr Webster's old school.

-The event will be followed by a charity cake sale after school during pick-up.

AOB

- Mrs Latty & Miss Victoria have requested extra funding for modular lightweight drama staging, on top of the £1k already allocated to them at the end of the last academic year. The current equipment is not fit for purpose as it is extremely heavy, difficult to store and not suitable for Trinity (hence equipment is hired in for external shows). FOM requested an official costing for all elements of the new staging vs. current annual hire charges. On receipt of this, a brief meeting will be held with Mr Webster to discuss and agree cost centre apportionment, i.e. FOM, school budget - or both.

-It was agreed that serious clarity is needed re: what the school should be paying for vs. what FoM should be fundraising for. Ruth Campbell reminded all present that Wellington, Thackeray and Chalybeate organise charitable fundraising initiatives each term, which perhaps FOM could be more involved with (this year the children are supporting United World Schools). She has since spoken to Mr Webster who is putting together a short statement ASAP.

-In the meantime, all present at the meeting will nominate one or two charities for potential FOM support, as well as suggesting some extra-curricular fundraising focusses.

***Update 1/2: Mr Webster has now written this statement:*

FOM Mission statement:

The charity should add value to the education of pupils in the school. FOM has two key objectives: to raise money for activities or items that add value to the children's lives at The Mead School and to create a more cohesive community of parents and teachers at the school.

As a working interpretation of the practicalities of this mission statement, the school would add that they would expect FoM to only contribute funds to projects and resources which truly enhance the children's learning. Any resources needed for the normal operation of the school should be funded by the school. Each funding application should be reviewed by the Headteacher and the FoM committee and their joint discretion will be used to judge the merits of each case against this criteria.

The date of the next FOM Meeting is Thursday 22nd February in the Dining Room.

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