

Friends of the Mead (FOM)

Meeting Thursday 22nd February 2018

Minutes

Present: James Piggott, Kate Corby, Lucy Renton, Ruth Campbell, Tamsin Turley, Caroline Winning, Toby Dicker, Alice Grebot, Lucy Jones

Apologies: Sarah Morley, Caroline Bolton, Emma Kent, Anna Dixson, Ele Dexter

WELCOME

- James Piggott, welcomed all present and requested any comments from the previous meeting's minutes (none).

FEEDBACK TO & UPDATE ON FOM CHARITY INVOLVEMENT

-JP reiterated the FOM's stated mission: 'To add value to the education of pupils in the school' and that it's two key objectives are 1) 'To raise money for activities or items that add value to the children's lives at The Mead School' and 2) 'To create a more cohesive community of parents and teachers at the school'.

-Additionally, JP stressed that FOM is bound by a constitution (which cannot be changed easily, to the best of our knowledge) which sets out the ways in which FOM is to be run and managed and by rules applicable to any registered charity in the UK. Therefore, any shift in fundraising emphasis (i.e. from school to charity) must be carefully and correctly managed.

-As a starting point, the committee informed all present that FOM would donate all proceeds from the forthcoming Easter cake sale, to the Tunbridge Wells Age UK centre. This charity received a particularly impassioned plea from a parent who volunteers regularly at the centre and who, in the longer term, is happy to foster relations between us and them, if parents and the school wish to. Age UK also seems a good symbiotic fit for the school, and more suitable for the younger Meadites.

-Age UK marketing collateral would be great to enhance the stall. Lucy Renton will check with Katie Balcombe if this is possible.

- The Committee also proposed that, if there is support for doing so, an additional Summer Fayre stall be conceived, set-up, resourced and run for the sole benefit of an external charity, be that Age UK or something else. This stall would be clearly advertised as raising funds for that charity (using charity marketing collateral) rather than FOM and would be an opportunity to test the wider appetite for fundraising for an external cause. Any parents who wish to nominate a charity and, crucially, run the stall, should contact Ruth in the school office.

- Lucy Renton raised the possibility of some of the smaller FOM fundraisers: Film Night, Valentines Disco, Easter Event, being handed to the school Houses to run in future, the proceeds from which would go to charity (pupils, parents and staff would all pull together for their respective House).

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-Ruth Campbell shared the charity totals that have been raised to date by the school this academic year. (£3,024 total across approx. 7 charities, including KCM Church). Whilst this is a fantastic achievement, it was suggested that a 'less is more' approach might be considered as currently our donations are quite thinly spread. I.e. we raise more, for fewer charities.

-Alice Grebot flagged some negative press that the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal received over Christmas last year. Ruth Campbell confirmed that the school is looking in to other, local, options for Christmas 2018, such as the Mayor's Toy Appeal.

2018 VALENTINES DISCO, FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY

- The event was a success and worked well being held on a school morning, and without the admin challenge of tickets. Kate Corby suggested that the disco could be a little shorter next year (perhaps 45mins in length for each session) as some children were tiring before the full hour was up.

-Additionally, the DJ + equipment need to be behind some form of barrier in future as the Infants, particularly, were pushing forward and a safety measure is needed.

-The cost of the event was £215 and was covered by the takings from 'Own Clothes Morning' of £280 resulting in a profit of £65.

2018 EASTER EVENT, WEDNESDAY 21st MARCH

-Event details are still to be agreed, information will follow shortly.

-The event will be followed by a charity cake sale supporting Age UK, at 3:30pm and 5:30pm respectively. Volunteers are need to run the stall at these times, please contact Ruth in the office if you can help.

SUMMER FAYRE, SATURDAY 23rd JUNE

- Sarah Morley will be the class reps first point of contact for all things Summer Fayre related. Sarah can be contacted by email on: skdollery@yahoo.co.uk

- Class reps are asked to support the sourcing of raffle prizes by encouraging parents in their class who may have business or personal contacts that enable them to donate a prize to contact Sarah Morley. It was suggested in the meeting that all class reps should be asked to source a prize on behalf of their class but it was decided after the meeting to keep the sourcing of prizes purely voluntary.

-A few volunteers are needed to speak to local business on the High Street, in the Pantiles and the likes of Trinity Theatre, Minor Mania etc... about donating a Raffle prize. FOM will supply volunteers with a letter on school headed paper so you have something official to email out or hand over having chatted to them. We have a better chance of success if we begin sourcing prizes immediately after the Easter break, as we then get our requests in early vs. other local schools (some businesses limit themselves to only one or two Summer Fayre donations).

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-Volunteers are needed to set up and run the BBQ. We need one team for the morning (bacon butties) and one team for lunch (burgers and hot dogs). Please contact Sarah on the email above or Ruth in the office if you can help with this.

-The committee also needs a year group to run the Bar and Cake Stalls. Although we would not expect you to have to man these stalls whilst Sports Day is happening. A couple of members of staff will be recruited. Again, please contact Sarah or Ruth if you wish to put your year group forward for this.

-Each class is responsible for a stall. This includes: organising the manning rota, sourcing stall decorations and prizes, setting up before Sports Day, setting down at the end of the Fayre.

-In 2017, Year 6 ran the large inflatable. This worked well hence the committee would like them to run it again this year (Sarah Morley is responsible for booking it though).

-Additionally, 2M will be doing Tattoos.

-All other stalls are left to your imagination! We will bring a list of Stalls run in prior years to the next meeting but feel free to get your thinking caps on over Easter for any new ideas!

AOB

-Alice Grebot requested that canopies/gazebos be set up for Sports Day for ALL children to sit under. Last year, shade was only supplied for the EYFS children (and it was a boiling hot day).

-James Piggott informed those present that all current Committee members (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) will stand down at the end of the current academic year. Fresh voices and new ideas are essential if momentum and fundraising success are to be sustained, and now is a perfect time to begin to manage the transition. It will be hugely beneficial for next year's Committee members to shadow the current Committee in planning the Summer Fayre. Therefore, with immediate effect, we are seeking volunteers for next year's Committee. Please contact the office in the first instance via marketing@themeadschool.co.uk if you would like to put yourself forward for a role.

The date of the next FOM Meeting is Thursday 26th April in the Dining Room.

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