FODS Meeting: Minutes

Monday 13th January 2020, 7pm at Oddfellows Arms

Present: Alice Atherton, Danielle Still, Ruth Wood.

Apologies: Wendy Baynes, Sonali Bolar, Abby Bull, Louise Comley, Joanne Hyslop, Anne-Marie Marshall, Sarah Thomas.

Danielle (Chairperson) opened the Meeting.

**1. Welcome**

Danielle welcomed and thanked those present.

**2.** **Review of Recent Events**

KS2 Film Night (15/11/19) - School

The film shown was Aladdin (PG) and was well attended.

Christmas Fair (23/11/19) – Sub Committee

A fantastic **£3643.77** was raised. Many thanks to the sub-committee who organised the event for the first time. A lot of planning behind the scenes goes into the event and feedback was positive with some ideas already on how to build upon the success for next time. These include an early bird offer for stallholders and a single point of contact for stallholders from booking through to on the day assistance. A timetable to include choir performance, raffle drawn etc. will also be put in place for next time. Different dates and times were also discussed. Following excellent feedback, Father Christmas will return!

Wreath Making (04/12/19) – Alice Atherton

The event was sold out and all who attended enjoyed it taking home their own beautiful wreaths with **£181.30** raised. Thanks to Alice for arranging it and to Mayflower Bloom for providing the tutorial and materials. Thanks to Sophie Killey for manning the bar too! Agreed this event should continue with early booking and advertising of dates key to securing more places. Agreed the cost should be £25 to remain competitive with other venues and a maximum of 30 places available. It was suggested that hot chocolate and mulled wine be offered next time.

Cake Sales (Mr Ashworth (12/12/19)) - School

Cake sale raised **£61.10** for the school council who will determine where funds will be spent. Thank you to everyone for continuing to support the cake sales; the children enjoy them and it’s a nice fundraiser.

Christmas Fireworks Performance (19/12/19) - School

Approximately 100 people attended the event with numbers lower than previous years which was a real shame. As a result there was unfortunately **a loss of £82.91** made on the refreshments. The raffles held by school at the Christmas performances in the run up to the event helped to raise money to cover some of the cost of the fireworks. Feedback to explain the lower attendance suggested confusion in who the event was for, date too near to Christmas and the great British weather. The event is intended to be a thank you to everyone for their support and a nice celebration at the end of the calendar year; this will be reviewed for the next academic year.

**3. Review of Previous Minutes**

VE Day (Ruth Wood / Danielle Still / Joanne Hyslop / Abby Bull)

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day, an after school community / fundraising event will be held with games, stall, refreshments and a raffle. We have received bunting, balloons and collection buckets from the Royal Legion so that we can give something back to the Armed Forces to ensure their contribution is never forgotten. We have also secured a donation of cakes to sell from a local supermarket. A trio specializing in 40’s war time music have been booked and there will also be musical performances from the children. There will also be dance demonstrations (e.g. Lindy Hop) for the teachers and children provided by Julie Harris.

Ruth confirmed that there would be a cake stall, sweet stall (red / white / blue theme), bar and raffle with donations for the latter currently being sought. In terms of communicating the event, details will be finalised at the next FODS meeting and then communicated.

Alice suggested that we invite veterans to the event with an offer of a free hot drink and cake to come and enjoy the performances. All agreed this was a lovely idea! Advertising the event through the Legion, Church etc. would help to get the word out to those who have previously served / serving.

Danielle suggested that to reduce the need to cook our own food we could hire a Pizza van (or equivalent) to sell food with a donation to FODS. A projector in the playground was also suggested whereby we could have images linked to VE day and perhaps display children’s art work too.

**ACTION (Abby):** Confirm feasibility of Guinness World Record attempt for a Lindy Hop world record.

**ACTION (Danielle):** Contact veterans and Air Training Cadets.

**ACTION (Alice):** Check with carnival committee who provided Pizza.

**ACTION (Ruth):** Prepare posters in readiness for next meeting.

**ACTION (Ruth):** Source raffle prizes and sweets for stall.

Casino Night (Anne-Marie Marshall)

Following approval by the governors, Vale Abbey Hall has been booked for 20/06/20 to hold our inaugural casino night with tables, croupiers and props provided by partycasinos.co.uk. There will also be a meal and disco included in the price of the tickets.

Different ticketing and food options were previously proposed which were discussed again. All agreed that the ticket price is key to ensure value for money and encourage more to attend with a “dress your best” theme rather than mandating black tie which could otherwise outprice some families. It was clarified that there would be no monetary gain from the gambling at tables but rather a prize per table (to be sought by FODS).

Anne-Marie confirmed via email that an action plan is in draft and will be circulated to the committee in the next week. Key activities include communication of the event, generating interest, sourcing sponsorship of the event. Further discussion is required on the ticket pricing and food options. A sub-committee will help to organise this event.

**ACTION (Anne-Marie):** Distribute action plan to committee and advise next steps.

Eco Recycling Options (Abby Bull)

Terracycle recycling opportunities including crisp packets, tetrapaks and ink cartridges have been discussed with eco club. A recycling box for empty crisp packets has now been placed outside of Mrs Manfredi’s classroom and has been communicated in the Newsletter (29/11/19). Please do remind your children of this and encourage them to use it.

Pottery Workshop – Sonali Bolar

The pottery workshop will be held on Sunday 29 March (2-4pm) with ticket information to be issued in the next few weeks. Tickets will be £20 and will include a glass of prosecco and a slice of cake with a maximum of 25 places available. Sonali confirmed via email that material and firing costs are anticipated to be no more than £10 with Sonali kindly offering her services free of charge. Thank you to Louise Comley who has also offered to help Sonali on the day.

**ACTION (Sonali / Ruth):** Draft and distribute booking form and communicate event on Facebook.

Connect with Other Schools – Danielle Still

Danielle raised the government idea of connecting with other schools in different countries and learning about their culture, experiences and the potential for visits. Joanne has passed the details onto another member of staff for investigation.

Year 6 Leavers Book (Ruth Wood)

Every year, a Year 6 Leavers Book is produced containing photos and input from the children to commemorate their final year at school. A request for a volunteer to pull the information together unfortunately didn’t result in any new volunteers coming forward. Ruth has offered to co-ordinate it for this year only with thank to Sarah Thomas for providing a handover summary.

**ACTION (Ruth):** Issue request for initial group photos to Year 6 parents / carers.

**4. Upcoming Events**

Cake Sale (16/01/20) – Mr Jackson

This has been communicated in the Newsletter and on Facebook. Mr Jackson’s class to bring in cakes by midday on Thursday.

KS1 Film Night (17/01/20) - School

Grandpa’s Great Escape (U) will be shown and has been communicated in the Newsletter. All children who wish to attend should send £3 to their child’s class teacher.

Years 3 -5 Bingo (24/01/20) – Ed Domville & Martin Mewies

This is always a fun event for the children with special thanks to Ed and Martin for offering to run it again. This is a very kind gesture especially as Martin no longer has a child at primary school. Please send in £3 to your class teacher if your child would like to attend; no tickets will be issued. Collection is 4:30pm from Miss Sutton’s classroom – please enter via the main door.

KS1 Beetle Drive (24/01/20) - School

This is a dice based game to draw a picture of a beetle with different body parts (e.g. antenna, body, legs etc.) assigned a different dice value (e.g. 1, 2, 3 etc.). Please send in £3 to your class teacher if your child would like to attend; no tickets will be issued. Collection is 4:30pm from Mrs Nixon’s classroom – please enter via the main door.

KS2 Film Night (31/01/20) - School

The film choice will be communicated in the Newsletter and on Facebook nearer the time.

Quiz Night (07/02/20) – Wendy Baynes

Teams up to a maximum of 5 adults allowed. Last year’s winners, No Hope Here, have the unenviable task of setting the questions and running the quiz this year! Booking forms will be issued later this week with food options included in the entry price. A raffle and bar will be running on the night. You are welcome to bring your own snacks but please do not bring any alcohol onto the premises.

**ACTION (Wendy):** Issue booking form via school.

**5. Finance Update**

The following information was provided via email by Louise Comley:

Main Account = £12547.01

School Council = £810.29

In addition to the funds noted above in section 2, a further £133.59 was raised from the Reception and Year 6 tea towels.

**6. Funding Requests / Wish Lists**

Improvement of outside area continues to be the main funding request with quotes for work to renovate the wild area into a natural area that will include wooden tepees.

**ACTION (Danielle):** Discuss with Jo regarding improvements to reception play area.

**7. AOB**

Matched Funding (Ruth Wood)

Matched funding can make a real difference to funds raised during the various events we put on during the year. Thank you to Sophie Killey (£767), Sarah Potts (£224) and Sue Wallis (£130.97) who have all successfully applied for matched funding from their employers for Happy’s Circus, Fashion & Fizz and Christmas Fair respectively. If your employer has a matched funding scheme then please do let us know as, in most cases, it simply means an online application and confirmation letter that we can provide.

Hartford Golf Club (Danielle Still)

The deposit paid for the cancelled 2019 end of year event is waiting to be used with Hartford Golf Club. Danielle confirmed that it needs to be used by the end of the academic year.

**ACTION (Ruth)**: Discuss credit with Dave Carter for potential use at the Golf Day (to be confirmed).

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: 7pm, Monday 2nd March 2020 at Oddfellow Arms.