

Minutes from PPTA meeting 9 February 2022

Present

Mary Astin, Berni Nightingale, Amanda Cunningham, Miss Shaw.

Apologies

Louise Egan, Catherine Heys, Louise Oliver, Collette Emery.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous committee meeting from 14 September 2021 were reviewed and approved.

Facebook page

The Facebook page is an active forum for the PPTA and is useful for parents to pass information. There has only been one recent incident on the page which resulted in a post being removed. Mary Astin dealt with the matter discreetly and spoke to the parent in question about the approach and appropriate use of the page.

Accounting update

Catherine Heys had provided a copy of the accounts to date for the Spring Term. They are looking healthy. The ongoing non-uniform days and coffee mornings are providing a regular and welcome income. Sales of the Calendar at Christmas also did really well and sold out at the Market Stall in December. We can think about doing a similar Market Stall next Christmas, with additional items to also go on the stall. Miss Shaw suggested that the children could make crafts to sell during Golden Time. Mary Astin will speak with Mrs Shell to get the cheque from school for the Christmas cards. We also need to get a receipt from school for the Ollies payment.

Coffee morning update

The coffee mornings are now able to get back up and running at Church and the next one is planned to take place on Sunday 13 February 2022. We need to publicise this to let people know, and to also ask for bakers and helpers. Getting helpers for coffee mornings has been slightly problematic, and the one-way system around school at drop off and collection doesn't provide opportunities to speak with other parents about helping out. The coffee mornings will take place fortnightly after the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses.

We discussed getting the pupils and their families more involved in coffee mornings. Amanda Cunningham will draft a letter to the various year groups, highlighting how beneficial the coffee morning is to the local community, that there is no onus to attend Mass but inviting them to come and help out. We would probably need 3 children each with a parent each event.

Upcoming events to consider

The welcome disco still needs to be rearranged for the Year 1 pupils and their families. This couldn't take place in September 2020 due to Covid and was re-arranged and then cancelled before the Christmas break due to an increase in Covid restrictions and the closure of the Social Centre. Mary Astin will make enquires with church to see if there are any upcoming dates when the Social Centre may be free, so that we can look at booking this event again. Once we have some provisional dates, Amanda Cunningham will speak with the DJ to see if he is available.

Mary Astin confirmed that the PPTA have inherited the Holy Communion Breakfast payment. The arrangement is that the parents from the previous years' children, do the Holy Communion Table for the forthcoming year. The ladies at the church used to fund this but the PPTA will now pick up the cost for this tradition which is minimal at around £50 per year. The Holy Communion is usually in June for the Year 3 children, although this years Year 4 children didn't have the opportunity to have their Holy Communion last year due to lockdown, so have just had their celebration.

Pancake day is coming up. There is also the Ash Wednesday Mass the following day which is the same day that the school photographer will be in. Helpers will be needed for Pancake day, to go into school following morning drop off and to prepare the pancakes for each pupil. The Teaching Assistants can possibly assist by handing the plates out to the pupils.

New Fundraising Ideas

It was agreed that an Easter Raffle at school would be a good idea again. Amanda Cunningham will ask Tesco if they would be willing to donate some Easter Eggs as prizes and we can ask parents to make donations again, as happened last year. School can also publicise the Easter Raffle and add the tickets to Parent Pay.

The Summer Fare will hopefully go ahead this year too and is scheduled to take place on 9 July 2022 at Church, details of which will be discussed at next terms committee meeting. We will need volunteers to run the toy stall, we do not profit from it but the PPTA always volunteer to run it. We will make a profit from the beer stall that we will host there, and there will also be a little funfair set up and a bottle tombola.

Any requests for funds

School would like to have the Mad Scientist in again for a visit. There aren't many dates left so hopefully this can be booked for the KS1 and KS2 children again. The cost previously was approximately £276.00. Mary Astin had also found someone called Crocodile Joe who would do a reptile show. Nothing is booked yet, but Miss Shaw confirmed that Year 5 and 6 were learning about amphibians at the moment. Mary Astin is conscious of the impact of Covid at school and questioned whether it would be preferable to look at Crocodile Joe visiting in the warmer weather so that he could set up outdoors.

Miss Merrifield requested some provisions for the reception children. There is an account with Centurion (a provider of school equipment) which appears to be still in use, although no one can access it. We therefore may need to look at alternative providers for the requested equipment.

In terms of the library, Miss Purtil has requested some displays. There has been 1 quote obtained so far which was just over £1000. The current quote for the technology for the display is from a company called Sharing Point. Mr Hall and Miss Purtil are looking at visual marketing to make the school look more inviting. Miss Purtil will need to source some more quotes given that the first one is over £1000. There are also plenty of other areas within school where the displays would also look great. If any of the quotes are less than £1000 then further quotes are not required. It's called a Visual Marketing Proposal. Mary Astin confirmed that she would be happy to speak with Sharing Point about potentially reducing their quote.

School are also now able to start thinking about trips, especially for the children who otherwise struggle to contribute within class.

As for general school provision, Miss Shaw advised that there were some gaps in reading with Years 3 and 4 and that they were using infant phonic books which weren't appropriate. School can look into what phonics books would assist those children, so that they don't feel as though they are reading baby books.

Any other business

We discussed the possibility of having a disco night at school for the whole school, possibly at the end of term. Thursday 31 March 2022 would be a potential option, the day before school finishes for the Easter break. Mary Astin will canvass this with Mr Hall. Mary Astin also confirmed that Kate Hodson also previously volunteered to host a Gin Night as she previously arranged one which was a huge success and managed to get a lot of sponsorship. That night attracted some new parents too. Mary Astin will check with Kate to see when she would be available to assist with this and will then check the Social Centre availability. This could possibly take place in the Summer. We could possibly look at a Beer Night for the dads too and Northern Whisper might assist.

The Queens Jubilee is 2nd June 2022. Mary Astin asked about the possibility of a Tea Party after school, possibly the 26 May 2022, where we could play old music and have bunting and flags up and decorate some tables with tea party treats for the children. The children could also dress up and will be doing British Values lessons within school. We could also get the local newspaper to attend.

Meeting closed.