

Minutes of PTA Meeting on Thursday 5 December 2013 at 3.15pm

Attending: Sophie Heard, Jill Hardin, Lisa Guppy, Rosalind Owen, Jen Ingham, Joy Holgate, Amanda Spriggs, Despina Andonova, Sarah Hyams, Irene Conway, Anne-Marie Wortley

Apologies: Nicky Clarke, Camille Hallo, Emma Dadson

Documents tabled: printed Calendar.

1. Welcome

Welcome from PTA co-chairs, Jill and Sophie. Apologies given.

2. Bazaar

Lisa reported that Maribel Jimenez and herself, together with a willing band of helpers had worked very hard to sort all of the donations made to the Bazaar. We had an amazing response from parents. Camille Hallo and Maribel were going to decorate the nursery in the evening, so we were ready for tomorrow morning. We had a further explanation of how the Bazaar worked.

The PTA would like to thank Maribel and Lisa for all of their efforts in organising the Bazaar. The PTA would also like to thank all of the parents who helped in sorting, decorating or selling and also to all of those parents who donated. WE are looking forward to a very successful day.

3. Communication

One of the matters that was raised in the last meeting was how we communicate to parents. There are two issues, one is to do with how the information is sent via Class Reps and secondly whether or not the message is a good message.

Sometimes, people feel that there is a negative vibe when parents are receiving the communication from Class Reps. Some of the EYU parents have felt overwhelmed by the volume of communication.

Jill advised that one possibility is that we stop sending emails via Class Reps and that just the Class Rep Co-ordinator send out the PTA emails. That will mean that one person is in control of how many messages go out.

The meeting discussed this possibility and the various pros and cons.

Action: It was decided to give it a try for a couple of months and see how the communication improves.

Action: Jill and Sophie will organise a coffee morning in the New Year especially aimed at EYU parents to try to get them involved in PTA and to understand what it does.

Action: The PTA would try to involve parents by keeping them updated with the amount of money raised by the PTA and where it is being spent.

All parents should send ideas regarding communication and also where to spend funds to Jill and Sophie so that they can be followed up.

4. **Mathletics**

Training for the teachers occurred last night Wed 4th December. A lot of fun and competitiveness was had by all! Letters will be sent out to the parents.

The name of the school for the website leaderboard is SSP&J Oxon. This is open for everyone to see. Your child's initials will be used rather than their name on the leaderboard. If you would rather some other method or pseudonym, that can be arranged. The letter to the parents will also ask about access to computers.

It is hoped that it will start Tuesday next week.

A big thanks to Sophie Heard for the idea. The school would also like to give a big thank you to the PTA for generating the funds and for the ideas in general.

The PTA would like to thank the school for being so supportive of this idea and for acting so quickly.

Mathletics has had very positive feedback so far.

5. **Calendar**

Joy confirmed that the calendar was ready and provided copies for the meeting to admire. Sophie and Jill propose to sell at the gate. Joy said that she could help. Some copies would be kept at the office so that Class Reps can sell to their classes.

A copy of the calendar would be given to each class and also to each of the sponsors.

A fantastic effort!

6. **Other Business**

- Irene would like to say that at the Finance Meeting she had with the governors, they are very impressed with the amount of money being raised by the PTA and even more impressed by the quick payment to the school when funds are approved for spending.
- One questions is whether the children ever sell raffle tickets or calendars. Often people find it hard to refuse if a child is selling. The school policy is that in school time the project would need to be approved. **Action: Sophie and Jill will ask Year 6 if they are interested to sell calendars.**
- Quiz Night – some organisation has started. There was discussion of the curfew. Irene advised due to the residential nature of the area, 10.30pm was appropriate time for everyone to be leaving and then there is clean-up afterwards.
- Sophie advised that there is a deadline for the proposal for funding from the Dragon School for the mound and the nurture shed. It is not until the end of January although she would like to have some numbers to produce a good working draft before Christmas. **Action: Rosalind to provide numbers to Sophie.**
- Irene suggested the PTA might like to organise gifts for the people who run the crèche while the PTA meetings take place – Miss Quinnell and Mrs Gates. **Action: Sophie and Jill to organise an appropriate gift.** The meeting confirmed that they do an amazing job!
- Cycling proficiency was raised by a parent. Irene advised that courses are run as an after school club. The problem is that quite heavy parental involvement is required to

help run the course. There is a someone who has qualifications to run the course, but we will need help to run it again. It is usually run after school for 6 weeks from 3pm to 4.30 pm, in the summer term.

- A couple of parents raised the problem of the distribution of the school newsletter, newsflashes and emails being sent numerous times. Irene confirmed that there had been a change in email provider. ***Action: Anne-Marie to look at system and see if duplication of emails can be stopped.***

Next meeting to be in January and the date will be advertised.