

## **Friends of Witchampton Meeting**

### **31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 9:15am**

**Friends Present:** Louisa Ambrose -Chair (LA), Sarah Edwards -Treasurer (SE)  
Margareta Wilkie-Stanley -Secretary (MWS), Katherine Tizzard (KT), Jodie Coda (JC), Cassie Schofield (CS), Laura Collie (LC).

**In Attendance:** Jo Hancock (JH)

**Apologies:** Sarah Porretta, Mandy Steele, Hayley Fazey, Gemma Marshall

### **Chairs Report**

See Note 1

### **Treasurer's Report**

See Note 2

**The current account balance is £3,824.84** (minus a few small outstanding charges)

Last term £221.61 was spent on Class Christmas Presents.  
Hedgehogs Class bought wooden toys including a fire engine  
Badgers Class bought items for their writing corner  
Foxes Class bought a circus skills kit (diablos, juggling balls etc.)

### **Class Budgets**

It was agreed to maintain the year budgets from Sept 2021-2022 at the same level.

Hedgehogs -£200

Badgers (Years1/2) -£400

Foxes (Years3/4) - £400

JH wanted to thank the Friends for their incredible fundraising in difficult circumstances over the past 2 years.

JH mentioned that there are a few outstanding items still to be reconciled from 2020/2021 but these will be taken from that year's budget where, due to COVID, there was a significant underspend.

JH also said there are also a small number of costs already spent e.g., coach to Corfe Castle (Foxes), virtual tour of the Great Fire of London (Badgers) and SE will update budgets accordingly and then contact the teachers with the amounts they have left.

JH and the Committee would like to thank Dumpton School and Mr Giles for providing a minibus and driver which is making so many of these trips so cost effective.

### **5 Things to do at Whitchampton!**

JH would like to create a list of things that the children should (pandemic's permitting) get to do whilst attending the school.

These would include a visit by the Planetarium, a LEGO Day etc.

## **Big LEGO Experience**

SE said that the latter was a defining event for her older child and CS agreed. A hall is turned into a room FULL of Lego and the whole school combine to complete a project linked to the curriculum.

The organiser is retiring but has availability in March/April 2022.

The cost would be £7 per child and parents would be asked to contribute with the “Friends” making up any shortfall. ***SE to proceed with coordinating dates and availability***

The school has also had a recent donation of Lego and a parent has volunteered to run a Lego club. ***JH to advise if additional Lego is needed and will advise if so, which kind.*** The Friends would then run a “Lego drive” where parents can donate blocks or purchase a small kit.

## **Communication**

- **“Whats App” Groups**

The What’s App groups were originally created to disseminate PTA information. A discussion was held as to whether additional “PTA specific” groups should be set up for each year group. It was decided that in non-covid times that the existing groups were not THAT chatty and that PTA communication was also now by Parentmail and Facebook etc.

It was agreed instead that subgroups to the “Friends” group would be set up that were event specific.

- **“Hedgehogs”**

For continuity it is important that Hedgehog parents are fully involved in Friends activities. ***LA to reach out to this group specifically to meet and introduce our group.***

JH mentioned that many were working parents who were unavailable during the day. A social evening introduction/meeting to be held for other PTA members and this key group. This meeting to either be held at the Club or Suzie Hayter has offered her house.

## **Music**

JH has asked if the Friends could fund replacement instruments for the school.

The carol concert highlighted the poor state of repair of some of these including bells, maracas etc. We have good stocks of triangles and glockenspiels

The school has also recently had a new music therapist join the team. ***JH to work with her to construct a “wish list” with approximate costs. JH to also see if there are any appropriate match funding grants*** (although this is unlikely).

***MWS to then investigate other matched funds to see if we can find from an alternate source or sponsorship***

## **Books**

The library is in need of new books.

The school to hold a mufti/world book day and an amazon “wish-list” to be created with books that parents can purchase.

A secondary list to be created for those who prefer to purchase via alternative methods.

*SE to investigate if there is an appropriate “book club” that will donate additional books if some are purchased.*

## **Other Fundraising**

### **100 Club/Golden Balls**

JH suggested that we could start a “100 club” . Each parent/child chooses a numbered ball (or 2) for £1 a month that is entered into a draw. Winner gets £20, 2<sup>nd</sup> £10 and 3<sup>rd</sup> £5 – and remainder for the school.

*CS to look at how this fits with our lottery registration.*

### **Circus**

The lead times for a circus are long – 2 years and flat ground plus parking are needed.

*CS to look at previous research and report.*

## **Spring Fair**

JH confirmed that the last date for the marquee is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Therefore the 25<sup>th</sup> March would be the last date for an afterschool event

Saturday the last day for a Saturday event.

The Committee to decide which would be preferable.

We would want a raffle so *CS to set up a shared google document with the people previously contacted for prizes.* A small group of friends to be asked to work on securing prizes.

It was decided that a second-hand book stall should be set up. Sales will go specifically to new books for the library.

We will also have a second-hand toy stand. Please start putting aside some good quality pre-loved toys!

### **Date of next meeting**

TBC

Note1

## **Chair’s Report**

### **Recent fundraisers**

*Doughnut and Stocking filler sale* Thank you to all parents who supported this event and thanks to Margareta and Jodie for their help,

We were able to help the school to raise nearly a hundred pounds for the foodbank as well as provide a massive carload of food donations to support their Christmas initiatives.

### ***Quiz***

Another great fundraiser, to which we must thank Sarah Poretta for her efforts in putting the quiz together. The event was a really fun evening - definitely worth doing again in the future.

Thanks also to Jodie and Suzie Hayter for their help in adding up scores and folding hundreds of raffle tickets and to our parents for their support and generosity in raffle donations (on the back of which we sold an entire raffle book).

### ***Clothing Bank***

This now has a laminated sign to remind the extended community that donations can be received from all.

### ***Santa***

The PTA would like to thank Suzie Hayter and her Santa team for organising a Christmas present delivery in these difficult times!

## **Note 2**

### **Treasurers Report**

The current balance on our account is **£3,824.84**

Since the last report we have received **£1,117.53**

Clothing Bank	£82.20
Amazon Gift Aid	£13.27
Donuts	£57.81
Film night and Bingo	£541.39
Quiz & Raffle	£302.66
Donation (@Quiz)	£120

Outgoings	<b>£370.11</b>
Parentkind Membership	£72
Class Christmas Presents	£222.11
Badgers GFL virtual tour	£34.50
Lottery registration	£20
Sundry	£21

Any 'Friend' who would like to be added to our Parentkind membership please contact SE. As well as our insurance, this membership provides ideas for fundraising and resources such as posters etc.