

PTFA Virtual Meeting Autumn term 17.09.20 Minutes

Present: Karen Law (Headteacher), Marghanita Spooner (Chair, parent for REC & Yr 2), Jonathan Parr (Treasurer, parent for Y4), Sophie Broadbridge (Secretary, parent for Y5)

Vicki Webb (5Y & 3L), Hayley Beswick (1C), Sam & Elizabeth Smallman (Rec & Y1), Jessica Smith (Rec), Gillian Pachter (Rec & Y3), Lucy Pert (Y3 & Y5), Lena Corner (Y4), Paget Gaunt (5E & 1M), Jasmine Dick (Y6 & Y4)

1. **Attendants' details:** Separate to the Committee, there were 10 parents at the meeting. They wrote their name and year their child was in, on the Google Meet chat box. See above.

2. **Introduction to PTFA and the Committee to new parents**

Introductions: to the 3 committee members (names above).

Platforms to contact PTFA: Marghanita highlighted the main platforms that parents can contact the PTFA on:

Email: williampattenptfa@gmail.com

Facebook: [William Patten PTFA](#) (Private Account, so please message Admin stating your class name to join)

Instagram (new): [_William_Patten_School_ptfa](#) (Public Account)

School's 'Patten Pages' that is emailed out and will start again week of 21 Sept, the PTFA often have a section in it.

3. **New ideas for fundraising & events**

In the light of Covid 19, we are looking for creative new ways to help connect the WP community, have fun and also fundraise. We have a number of ideas from parents already, but would encourage more, and would also like volunteers to help make them possible. There will be no Christmas Fair or Quiz Night this term.

New Donations platform: PTFA keen to set this up soon, so people can donate funds to the PTFA, as a registered Charity. The funding would be aimed at a specific target. The school needs an additional 15-20 Chrome Book laptops, to replace ones that are faulty, and too old to be updated. The new laptops would be provided to children who don't have the facility to work from home if quarantining. An initial target of £5,000 could start us off.

A parent suggested the PTFA as an existing Registered Charity (with it's Charity Number) could be used as a target for fundraising for a multitude of events. The parent community could be reminded of this on a regular basis.

Jonathan mentioned that the PTFA lottery which has been running for many years, can't claim Gift Aid as it is technically gambling, so it would be good if any future platforms could have Gift Aid as an option to benefit from this.

A parent suggested looking at setting up a regular subscription for donations from parents that are happy to do this, a small amount per month on a direct

debit. This would generate funds throughout the year. There are fees for such platforms, but it could generate enough funding to still make it worthwhile. The pattern of fundraising for a lot of charities is to look for a continued source of income, rather than the one off donation, and perhaps we should do the same, as it is to fund ongoing needs of the school.

Jonathan mentioned the subscription may detract from the Lottery, but in Covid times it may be the most practical option, and there's no reason why we couldn't have both platforms.

It was discussed that the issue of funding the school is contentious, as many parents believe the Government and local Authority should be supplying all of this funding. Karen explained the idea of a funding link on the school website for donations was discussed previously with the Governors and it was decided it was not the right direction to go in.

A parent suggested that fundraising for additional things with a specific target would warrant subscription donations, as the general events that we would normally do aren't possible.

Karen said she would ask the Governors on their thoughts on this revised approach to fund raise and feedback to the PTFA. The funds donated would go direct to the PTFA account, not the school. If we proceed, the platform to use has not been chosen yet, but will be researched and announced when set up.

WP Marketplace: A parent suggested a WP Marketplace, for the kids and parents that do craft and baking, jam making, Christmas Baking kits etc.

Silent Auction: Sophie explained an early fundraising suggestion of a Silent Auction was worth considering, and perhaps this could encompass the Marketplace idea. The Silent Auction would be an online platform where donated 'lots', craft, art, consumables and experiences, are bid for anonymously, for a set period of running time, until the auction closes. The highest bidder on each lot wins the item and their donation goes towards the cause.

A parent suggested that lots like a coffee or bread subscription, could work well on the Auction.

A parent suggested a Pub Quiz event at the end of the auction to close the event, could help capture a live audience's generosity. Any parents that are happy to run one, please volunteer.

Community: A parent said that the thing we miss when we can't do the events is not just money but the community, and we wanted to avoid people seeing the PTFA as a purely fundraising group.

Marghanita suggested rather than all the fundraising ideas being parent lead, we could create a community event that wasn't 'communal' as such but would involve the children. We could create communal targets for them

to fundraise for, whilst having fun and achieving goals. Their activities could be sponsored.

We would like to hear of ideas for this.

Film club: A parent said we should utilise the virtual technology to create communal events such as a family film club. They could draw a picture afterwards and vote for the next film choice, or sing along to a song together. A parent mentioned Netflix Party, which allows people to watch a film at the same time. Utilising the technology would highlight the need to fundraise for more computers.

Another parent illustrated how a daily online session for the year 2 children by a parent during lockdown was really successful in bonding the class and helping them to have fun together.

Ted talks: Another suggestion from a parent (after the meeting ended) was to persuade the parents with exciting jobs to do a series of Ted talks. Any takers?

Festive workshops for classes: to help create some festive fun for the children, classes could have workshops. A parent suggested the class Rep and the parents/class come up with a workshop activity, and then facilitate it. We will find out from Karen what workshops have been done previously that were successful. Parents would be asked to donate on the fundraising platform to cover costs and raise money too.

Christmas Tree sales in playground:

A few schools have done this previously with some success. The trees are ordered in and parents buy one in advance. A previous committee had looked at this, but people often like to choose their own trees, and it wouldn't be possible this way. It could also detract from the sales at the 2 main Church based Christmas tree shops and be quite a lot to administer.

Pumpkins: A suggestion was made to buy in enough pumpkins for every child to take one home, and then ask for a donation from each parent on the new online donations platform. Halloween falls in half term this year, so it would be taken home the week before. A callout to anyone who has contacts in the pumpkin sales world!

Pumpkin Carving competition: Prizes across the key stages for best carving, display photos of them on the new Instagram page.

4. Proposed PTFA funded items & activities for 2020/2021:

Sensory (Rainbow) Room: The Rainbow Room is a sensory room, a place where children with additional needs can develop and engage their senses in a safe and calming space.

The room is lit with a range of sensory lighting including a wonderful bubble tube with fish bobbing up and down and fabulous fibre optic lights which children can hold and watch as they change colour.

There are soft floor mats, beanbags and cushions and also a range of equipment for physical play including a trampoline and a balance beam set. Children can also explore the coloured and bubble mirrors and textured sequin panels on the walls. The school would like help funding this as have covered approximately half of its cost so far. They would like to extend this to

two spaces eventually. Equipment like a freestanding cuddle swing are being considered. They have spent £3,000 so far, and are looking to spend another £3-4,000, up to £7,000 if there were 2 rooms.

Workshops: Karen said the pupils won't be able to go out of school to workshops currently. Workshop provision is possible at school but the practitioner would need to come in for twice the amount of time to run 2 two workshops, due to social distancing. There are cost implications to that. If we can financially support some of the workshops that would help.

Playworkers: 2 playworkers from Fit For Sport help organise activities and games for children that find playtimes challenging. One is for younger years, the other for the older years. Karen would appreciate the PTFA continuing to fund these. She requested they have another playworker for Reception pupils, to work until the end of this year, which would cost approximately £1500-1600.

Jonathan said the current funds the PTFA have are enough to cover more workshops and playworkers if we agree.

- 5. Lottery:** Jasmine, who runs the lottery, explained how it is run. Just over a hundred people are contributing to it. It raises approximately £4,000 a year, and with the current lack of school Fairs, (that in the past have raised approximately £5,000 each) will play an even more significant part of the PTFA fundraising. Marghanita said she was promoting it amongst the Reception parents, and hoped more would sign up.

We are currently looking for another parent to take it over, ideally a parent from KS1 who can run it for a few years. Accounts are submitted to the Council monthly, (takes approximately an hour) and winnings distributed. New direct debits for parents joining are set up also. Please email the PTFA if you are able to help: williampattenptfa@gmail.com

The lottery can't collect Gift Aid as it has a gambling license. A parent asked if it was a non-monetary prize, could Gift Aid then be donated, but any receiving of a prize be it monetary or not makes it exempt.

- 6. Class Reps:** Below are the Class Reps for last academic year. We have run this system for about 1.5 years. The Class Rep attends the meetings, then forward info from the meetings that the PTFA supply via Whats App. They can ask questions on a parent's behalf. Other correspondence is sent to them to forward, mostly via What's App.

We will Whats App the current Reps to find out if you are able to continue this year. If not, please find another parent in your class who could do it, and send the PTFA their details (name, mobile, email, class name) via email to : williampattenptfa@gmail.com

Last year's Class Reps:

Pre-school	VACANCY
RC	Gioia Caminada
RK/M	Hayley Beswick
1C	Stacy Shapiro / Fiona McClune
1M	Jenny Diprose / Dara Levan-Harris
2L	Rebecca Larpent
2S	Francesca Boyd
3L	Lena Corner
3C	Lena Corner
4H	Esme Daly
4M	Stacy Shapiro / Fiona McClune
5E	Ellara Wakely
5Y	Ellara Wakely
6B	VACANCY
6H	VACANCY

7. AOB:

School meals: Jonathan asked about school meals. Karen explained the packed lunches were being provided (250 in all) to all of KS1 and pupils entitled to Free School Meals in KS2. They will review in a few weeks if they can provide packed lunches to any child that wants them (via Sims Agora payments). A number of parents had asked about hot meals. Karen said due to the social distancing restrictions, they can only serve one year group at a time (60), and then need to clean the hall after each year group. This is too time consuming to enable all the year groups to have lunch. It is proving complicated to resolve.

Karen has asked other schools how they are approaching this. Some aren't providing any lunches at all, some are doing the same at WP, some have a rota system for hot lunches, so one specific year has hot lunches for a week (or a day) and the rest bring in packed lunches. Then another year has their turn. Karen will be speaking to the Head cook Ali to discuss how it's going in the next few weeks.

Jonathan made the point that the pupils receiving the Free School Meal packed lunches were more visible as they come in brown paper bags, but if other pupils were buying them it wouldn't be noticeable. Karen acknowledged this point.

WP school website PTFA page update:

A link to go up to **Easyfundraising.org.uk** and previous minutes of meetings to be posted up too.

Ebayforcharity.org and **Amazonsmile.co.uk** to be set up for the PTFA and circulated, along with regular reminders about **Easyfundraising**.

Virtual meeting times: Please contribute thoughts on the best time for future virtual meetings. Another meeting likely to be end of November /early Dec this year. The minutes of this meeting to go out via school email.