

Friends of Birch Hill Primary School

Committee Meeting Minutes - Wednesday 22nd November 2017

Present:

Sarah Pitcher (Chair)
Emma Austin
Lucy Cass
Raquel Muñoz Pereira
Maria Sanchis
Annette Corbett
Karen Cameron
Michael Dillon
Charley Neale

Apologies:

Louise Burness
Donna Edwards
Cameron Mcardle
Steph Hatfield

Committee up-date

Sam Hall-Moore has stepped down as co-secretary so there is a vacancy on the committee if anyone is interested in helping with communications and admin of the group.

Fireworks

The event was a success with a good turnout and positive feedback. Around £1100 was raised with leftover soft drinks and flashy items able to be used at the up-coming disco.

Treasurer's up-date

The names on the bank accounts are still in the process of being changed over. There is around £5,880 in the current account.

Spending plans

We have already committed to spending up to £1,000 on improvements to the school ground and £3,000 a year for 3 years towards new laptops. There is a need to up-grade desktop PCs, interactive whiteboards and other IT resources which Friends could usefully contribute to. Other possible ideas are to help fund extending the safety surface near the tyre play area and re-configuring the outdoor space of the Reception class.

Badgers Retreat Up-date

The outdoor 'wild' area (at the back of the playground next to the car park) has been restored to a useable space which has been enjoyed primarily by Inclusion and Infants. Getting in Forest School practitioners is too costly at the present time but it may be possible to train staff internally or lease to an outside company. The idea of renting this facility was discussed but needs to be balanced against up-keep and operational costs.

Logo competition

We are very thankful to all the children who made the effort to enter the colouring / design competition to find a new logo for 'Friends'. There were some fantastic and creative entries. We decided on some colourful paw prints by Casper Bracken from class 1RD. We now need some assistance actually turning this into a useable logo – please get in touch if you can help.

Christmas events

- **Cards** – these were sent home for children to design this year and are expected back soon
- **Bazaar – Friday 1st December**
Floats and sweets will be provided by *Friends* for the children to set-up their games and activities.
- **Present room – Friday 15th December**
Donations have been requested for adult gifts (not gender specific) to be brought into the office. Deadline to be given of Monday 11th so we can review we have sufficient. Parent helpers will be needed throughout the day to sell / wrap / help the children.
- **Disco – Friday 8th December** **R/KS1 5 - 6pm** **KS2 6.30 - 8pm**
To make it easier to register children the Studio will be set up with tables for each year group. Flashy items will also be on sale here so the younger children do not need to bring in money. We will buy squash and biscuits for the KS1 disco. We already have fizzy drinks + Fruit Shoots for KS2 and will get sweets for them to buy. Stickers will be used to provide one drink and they can purchase more. Pick-up will be via the main office. A separate letter will go out with details.
- **Raffle** – we have some prize donations already and will request donations to put together some hampers. Tickets to be printed and go home soon.
- **School lunch – Thursday 14th December**
Drinks are provided by *Friends* and parents are asked to come to help serve (organised through the office)

On-line payment

We are looking into how we can set up on-line payment and 'easy fundraising' where a small donation is received through regular on-line shopping.

Future events

No current dates booked but interest in another Quiz, Film afternoon and a Disco next term. Ideas for new events were considered including a Car Boot Sale and Family Bingo. It was suggested that it would be nice to have more opportunities for parents to meet and socialise.

Date for next meeting – Tuesday 9th January 2018