



Friends at Benfield School PTA Committee Meeting – meeting room

Thursday 20th September 2023 9am

Attending: Lisa (LH), Bonni (BG), Gemma (GW), Alice (AW)

Apologies; Jess (JK), Katy (KS), Jacqui (JS)

Committee

- Bonni and Katy are now First Aiders thanks to the school for providing training. If possible, can BG and KS send a copy over to fabs email
- Sair has now left the committee but wishes us well on our fundraising efforts
- Just to clarify that Sparrows Nursery is separate from the school so will not be involved with FABS
- LH suggested 2 A1 pavement/forecourt signs to use as noticeboards by either entrance. Showed photo to all present. Will discuss purchase when we know the finances
- AGM needs to be arranged (after half term). LH expressed how much we need a Treasurer this coming year and a Chair or LH happy to co-Chair (1 year only). LH to send out information on each role but hopes these positions will be filled or the future of FABS is unfortunately very uncertain
- 6 weeks-in meeting for new reception parents. Awaiting on a date and then will try to arrange a presence
- Shed sort out and Pre-loved Uniform both need to be addressed. Uniform ideally before parents evening

Financial

- Jess (JK) unable to make this meeting but will let us know our available funds as soon as she can
- Lloyds bank on Boundary Rd is closing in November. Do we change accounts to include post office deposits and online banking? To discuss after AGM
- Will try to be more Cashless this year using card reader, QR codes and payment links

Funding/Purchasing

- LH and BG met with Drew (DD) and Richard (RD) to discuss FABS plans this year. DD would like us to invest in a water play installation and trees to provide shade on the grass area by canteen. AW to research water play companies
- Funding already agreed for OCOW equipment at the end of last year. Also funding £6 per child for Enrichment trips/visits, Year 6 hoodies, Sports Day ice-poles, new reception starter books and house t-shirts
- DD would like a Panto if possible. LH informed that it cost quite a lot (around £800) and wouldn't be surprised if it was more this year, suggested an Online version but

DD has thought of an idea (that is top secret at the moment) which we will try and contribute to

- As we will not pay out so much for a Panto, we were thinking of buying Santa Books again and purchasing a book for each child. To discuss as a committee. BG to look into which books would be a good price. Maximum of £300
- An option to save on costs would be to have the DJ at the KS2 disco only and to arrange a playlist for the KS1 disco. To make it more effective we were thinking of buying some lights and possible smoke or bubble machine. These can then be used at other events too. GW to look into items and report back. Committee to discuss
- We discussed the Phonics books conversation that started on WhatsApp. LH and BG brought it to DD and RD attention who said that they will clarify with KS1 parents. Unfortunately, it would be far too much money for FABS to get involved with
- LH suggested an Amazon Wish List for small items that teachers may want for their classrooms. Some parents would like to contribute this way as they can see what they are helping with. Will need to investigate further. LH mentioned it to a couple of staff members who thought it was a good idea. LH to get more information and share with committee and DD

Funding Projects

- KS has started to paint the Mural behind the Music Hut with help from JS. Any volunteers to help her on Fridays between 1 and 5 would be greatly appreciated. Still awaiting a funding request form for paint. KS can you please ask Miss H what this area is to become please and for the funding forms
- LH suggested the idea of a Little Free Library as FABS and the school have an abundance of books. It would be great if it was accessible all year round. Will need to source the main vessel and then address its position. AW said she knew the person who made the Vale park one and will get in contact

Events

- Christmas cards – Have been given out to teachers with a deadline of Friday 29th Sept
- Parents Evening – We did avoid this last year as it made no money, but we feel like to would be good to have a presence and have pre-loved uniform available. BG suggested that we have more in the room to entertain children – colouring, bricks, books etc. Will wait for date and see who is free
- Magic Show – LH shared the idea of a Magic Show (Amigos Magic). To discuss in upcoming Events meeting
- Winter Disco – as discussed above. Look at potential dates and arrange a WhatsApp group when have a date. To discuss in next meeting
- Nativity – popular last year so will be better prepared this year

To Do List

- Research pavement sign pricing – LH
- Potential dates for events – LH email office and DD
- Shed/Cellar sort and transport – arrange date weather depending

- Uniform sort and organise – arrange date near to parents evening
- AGM to organise - LH
- Amazon Wish List research – LH
- Water play research – AW
- Lights/Smoke machine – GW
- Santa Books – BG

Next meeting

Event planning meeting for all – Wednesday 27th September 9.15am

AOB – after this meeting but communicated on WhatsApp/email

Parentkind log in – all committee members have been invited to have a Parentkind account by email

Parentkind renewal by 1st Nov – email and WhatsApp sent to JK to arrange

Go Henry – new affiliate scheme for KS2. LH will sign up and share