

Friends of St Mary's

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Chair: Kathryn Eels

Deputy Chair: Deven Anketell-Jones and Georgina Barton

Treasurer: Clare Grice

Secretary: Sabrina Allcorn

Friends of St Mary's AGM

Date: 22nd October 2020, 7.30pm Via Zoom

Attending: Kathryn (Chair), Deven (Deputy Chair), Sabrina (Secretary),

Committee: Tanith Kirby (Treasurer), Liz Hills

Others: Fran Pepper, Clare Grice, Aneta Janus, Clair Turner, Georgina Barton

Apologies

Tanith Kirby, slightly late as still teaching.

Liz Hills, running late.

Welcome

Thank you for all coming to this new way of meeting. It's all a bit strange, but hopefully we can still move forwards in this way for the time being.

Chairperson's Report

Kathryn informed us there was £2,236 in the FSM account. We will be donating £1,500 to the school which is nowhere near what we have raised before, but this is understandable during a pandemic.

Committee

- All roles available if anyone wishes to step forward.
- Kathryn Eels remains Chair.
- Deven Anketell-Jones and Georgina Barton will do a joint role with as Deputy Chair.
- Tanith Kirby resigned as Treasurer.
- Kathryn stated the importance of this position and the FSM can't run without this role as it's a legal obligation. Claire Grice has volunteered for the role.
- Sabrina Allcorn remains Secretary.

Liz Hills - Covid-19 Information relating to Fundraising

The school is trying to limit people on site, which makes fundraising difficult.

2021 Reception parents will be touring the school, which adds risk, and we are starting to see an impact of Coronavirus in the community, which means we need to be very careful.

The pandemic has had a massive financial impact on a lot of our families. So it's felt that it's not fair to ask for money when some families are struggling.

As a Christian community, it's important to make it fair on all children and for children not to miss out on fun events because they can't afford to attend an event or take part in an activity. We don't want anyone to feel left out.

Moving forward we will try to be very mindful of family situations and what we're asking. Also continuing our charity work as a Christian community and thinking about others in the wider community. The FSM are a massive part of our community, but as a whole we as a school are not struggling financially. Look beyond ourselves as one school – it's not a competition and it doesn't matter how little or how much we raise.

The Christmas cards is a lovely way to get involved with fundraising and will be appreciated by families who have not been able to connect in person during these times.

Kathryn emphasised that the FSM will ensure this situation going forward is seen as a positive and not a negative and communications and events will be all-inclusive and not make anyone feel excluded.

Liz suggested the possibility of having sponsorship events such as a Christmas fancy dress fun run. This is something that will be fun for the children, involve everyone and can raise money through sponsorship such as the Tread the Track event we had during Lockdown.

Liz also suggested that it might be a better way to raise money if we are more specific about the items that will be bought for the children in school. Send a message that this is what we're raising money for. Children have been exploring book corners and making sure they are all inclusive for cultural capital. Children will take part in choosing the books.

Fundraising Ideas

- All events will have sense of inclusion for everyone. If you can afford to donate, great, if you can't, don't worry, join in the fun anyway.
- Donations, rather than set amounts, takes the pressure off and others can donate more or less than others, it doesn't matter.
- Christmas cards after half-term – need to get this going and have limited time to get done. In the classroom. **Deven to action**
- Having a donation bin for clothing and shoes, rather than bags for schools. Could it go in the old disabled parking space? Liz thinks this a really lovely idea and the kids would love it. **Kathryn to action**
- 100 club – for example, families pay £5 a month, pick a winner each month. Winner gets 50%, 20% as 2nd prize, 30% goes to the FSM. No contract, can opt in or out each month. **Liz to check** as it's a bit of a lottery. Might have to wait till the new year to start with possible new leadership team.

~ Pray ~ Learn ~ Love ~ Enjoy ~

- Auction of promises – Parents that have skills donate their services or time and people bid for this in an auction. (Electricians, Birthday cake makers, Gardeners, etc.)
- Remote quizzes, remote class groups with the children attending as a class after school rather than all gathered in the hall. Fun event, donate if you wish.
- Donation for some sort of Mufti day – crazy hair day, possibly tied in with the Christmas Fancy Dress up sponsored run. (Not on School Photo Day!!)
- Break the rules day – children and staff members choose one rule they wish to break, i.e. wear trainers for the day, crazy hair, No uniform (A list may need to be provided of what's acceptable or the teachers can discuss with classes) **Possible event for January/February.**
- Santa – Video message? Santa could give a gift to each class that they can share. Teachers input on this so they can choose something the whole class will benefit from. **Tanith/Sabrina to check with Santa!**
- Christmas T-Shirt / Jumper competition – Design and Colour in your T-shirt or Jumper, donation to take part. The winner will have their design printed on a T-Shirt / Jumper. **Father Dominic could be the judge - Liz to ask**
- Tread the track raised a lot of money for the wider community – Could we do something similar and reach out to the parish too. **Ask Father Dominic to dress up and run as well to include the community and whole parish.**
- As the situation with Coronavirus continues, we will need to think beyond Christmas working in this way. Think of events that are something really fun for the children. Make it clear to families that donations are welcome, only if you can afford it, nobody will be excluded from events if they can't donate.

AOB

Reception children welcome gift – Maybe a small notebook and pencil, in a bag and quarantined for 72 hours. **Kathryn to action.**

FSM Bank Account – could be a way forward for paying remotely as less people pay cash. Contactless card machines is another option. **Kathryn to look into.**

Sabrina to check school calendar to start planning dates for events, so the children have things to look forward to. **Sabrina to action and liaise with Liz**

Next meeting

TBC

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