

## St Matthew's primary school PTA meeting

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 9am**

The Box Café, Norfolk Street

### **Present**

Committee: Laura Franks (co-chair, chairing this meeting), Kat Parks (secretary)

Wider committee: Emma Willis (fairs)

Staff: -

Trustees: Georgina Scott

Parents: David McBride, Edmund Lowson (honorary deputy treasurer!), Brigs Lenz-Giarlis, Mary Mao, Sunny Xu

Apology for absence: Susie Ross

### **1. PTA events and fundraising**

#### **a. Festive fair**

A big thank you to Emma for organising this.

#### **b. Summer fair**

This will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Emma has already started planning it. The new school chef has been very helpful and said it would be fine to use the lunch hall serving hatch. Only the hatch and taps would be needed, not even the fridge (though the chef said this would have been fine as the fridge is cleared every Friday anyway). However, when she approached Adrian he said no. She will pursue this.

#### **c. Card machine**

This has now been used at two cake sales. It needs to be linked to someone's phone – only Kat has the app at the moment. The feeling is that it could be really useful at the BBQ stall at the summer fair.

#### **d. Donations to individual year groups**

- i. Around the time of the Year 2 cake sale some Year 2 parents asked Kat if they could make a cash donation online. Seb then set up a special Justgiving link for this, which Kat put on the class WhatsApp group. Nobody had used it (Brigs made a donation during the meeting), but a few gave cash donations and others donated at the cake sale via the card reader.

- ii. It was generally felt it would be a good thing to allow donations to a particular year group at cake sale time. This would give an option for people who would rather not donate cakes (for whatever reason including the sugar aspect).
- iii. It is particularly helpful if the teachers are able to let us know what they intend to spend the money on. For the Year 2 sale we advertised that the money would pay for the Raptor Foundation visit.

## **2. Playground improvements**

### **a. Cage redevelopment**

- i. George and Kat updated the meeting on the situation with the cage development, as discussed at Wednesday's PTA meeting. It was suggested that people who already use the cage in the evenings could be approached.
  - ii. The feeling is that the timescale is very tight now, given that the money would be needed by Easter. Perhaps it would have been possible to apply to companies etc had it been done earlier, but the process takes a while.
  - iii. Edmund mentioned a loan arrangement that was put in place to buy a boat at his rowing club, by which the rowers themselves contributed money. He would find out more about this.
  - iv. Kat felt it would be a real shame if this huge amount of external money was lost because the £25k could not be raised.
- b. Brigs registered with the meeting that she is not happy with the fencing-off of the jungle area. Her son had been thrilled this week to get a chance to use it in a PE session and she found it sad that he doesn't get more time in the only natural part of the playground. Kat confirmed she is not the only one who feels this way.
- c. Brigs showed the group photos of playgrounds she has been involved in designing, for example one in Copenhagen. Simple changes such as marking the surface, for example adding a running track, can add interest and make a big difference. In her experience children are actually pretty good at respecting spaces demarcated for different purposes, such as jumping, running and quiet zones. She would be willing to help with designs, perhaps even pro bono.
- d. There was mention of the idea of taking the money spent on the Year 1 outside space from the £10k the PTA has ringfenced for the playground. There was no objection to this.

## **3. Norfolk Street traffic**

Discussion of the problem of idling in the area around the school. Brigs said that idling is actually illegal – it is s.123 of the Highway Code and it's possible to be fined for it. Perhaps children could make posters?

#### 4. **Miscellaneous**

- a. George requested material for the PTA's social media account. It's best not to include children in photos.
  - b. Might it be possible to have an ideas page on the PTA website, for people to post their ideas about the playground, for example?
  - c. Ben Cijffers' proposal for a plant sale was mentioned. The meeting agreed this was a good idea and Laura agreed to let Ben know he should go ahead with this.
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