

Parents' Association

Zoom Meeting Minutes

9th February 2021

Attendees:

Katie Holmes (KH)
Emma Miles (EM)
Gemma Brickwood (GB)
Maddy Nahin (MN)
Sonia Davies (SD)
Hilary Atherton (HA)
Julia Cursiter (JCu)
Jen Cottingham (JCo)
Madeline Jones (MJ)
Michelle Thurlow (MT)

Informal Zoom meeting organised by the PA to brainstorm fundraising ideas for the Community Pool Project. Ideas discussed included:

Valentines Virtual Balloon Race (Sun 14th Feb)

To date this fundraiser has raised approximately £500. More comms needed nearer the date to drum up interest and encourage a wider number of people to get involved e.g. grandparents. PA members asked to send WhatsApp reminders to classes nearer the date as ParentMail reminders are often overlooked.

Mufti-days

Mrs Cunningham's preference is to keep these to one a term. If the school opens before Easter, the next mufti-day could be Thursday 1st April (last day before the Easter holidays). There's also a National Swimming Pool day on 9th July which could be a good opportunity to hold a mufti-day to raise funds for the pool. KH will confirm dates with Mrs Cunningham.

Class fundraising initiatives

Classes can be challenged to come up with their own fundraising ideas for the Pool Project. The class that raises the highest amount should win a prize, for example a class fun swim when pool is opened.

"Buy a brick" scheme

Families could be invited to buy individual bricks for the external path and have their names engraved. JCu has researched some companies that offer this service and it's a fairly easy scheme to set up. The PA would need to establish the number of bricks required to make the scheme affordable and take a view on price. If a scheme like this is launched, it's vital to raise awareness and seek interest in the wider community as the pool will be accessible to the general public as well as school children. More targeted comms will be needed to launch the scheme, e.g. via road WhatsApp groups/leaflet drops/possibly door to door contact.

The PA discussed the need to get Rowan and local businesses involved. Larger contributions from businesses should be encouraged so would need to consider how to package the scheme to give a corporate option and a more affordable option for individuals/families.

Other options for similar schemes were discussed such as individual plaques on external walls or buying/sponsoring tiles inside the swimming pool.

MN agreed to approach Helen McGuire from the Recreational Ground Trust to find out which company was behind the Community Oak Leaf scheme in the new Rec clubhouse.

Sponsorship/match funding

The Scouts are very successful with this type of fundraising.

The PA should consider approaching local businesses to drum up interest. Also, parents may be part of big corporations that could offer sponsorship and this option should be explored.

Church-sponsored Easter activities e.g. decorating flowers/fishes/easter eggs

HA agreed to speak to Ada Rugg (Families Minister at HTC) to discuss what Easter activities could be offered. Children could make decorations at home and hang them on an Easter tree in the church. This would be a fun activity for the children when there's little else to do at the moment in school holidays.

Easter scavenger hunt

This shouldn't involve too much preparation as the PA can use the same route as the Fun Run and the signs from that route. Payment would be collected via Parentmail. One option would be to pin up pictures of animals to spell out a word like "Easter Bunny". The scavenger hunt should be organised over the Easter weekend so families can adhere to social distancing and do the route in their own time. It would be difficult to distribute chocolate eggs at the end of the hunt with Covid restrictions but every child who participates could win a house point from the school.

Craft nights for parents

Laila Carruthers who runs the art club would be happy to provide art packs (mosaic or silk printing kits) for approximately £15 and provide a video to introduce a craft evening for individual classes. The PA agreed to approach class reps to help gauge interest among parents.

Virtual quiz

Last year's quiz was cancelled due to Covid restrictions. A school quiz is normally held in March every year. Although people may be getting tired of online quizzes, a school one is likely to be popular as reception parents have not had the opportunity to meet or socialise with other parents. It would also be an activity that is likely to appeal to more people than a craft evening. Cahoot was flagged as a good online quiz to use as it allows teams to submit answers online via a designated app. Hilary confirmed she would speak to Dom (quiz master from Hare and Hounds) who was booked to do the last school quiz.

The PA could also approach local restaurants to see if they'd be willing to provide discounts for takeaway food bought by quiz participants.

School lottery

This idea had been raised in previous PA meetings. JC confirmed the Elmbridge Community Lottery is slightly more profitable than the School Lottery website. Both options are fairly easy to set up and would not incur any set up or admin fees for the PA. Prize money is generous in both lotteries (up to £25,000 a week) and would cost £1 a week to take part. The Elmbridge Community Lottery would allow the PA to nominate the Community Pool Project as a good cause, rather than the school as a whole. JCo agreed to progress this idea and make an application for CPS.

Personalised tea towels/hoodies/swim towels

Classes could be approached to design their own tea towels/hoodies/ swim towels.

Hoodies would potentially be expensive but tea towels or swim towels would be more affordable for families. The PA agreed to explore this option further.

The PA agreed that comms should be ramped up to drum up interest in the various fundraising initiatives this year and to stress the importance of funding in light of the pool opening in December. NH suggested a very short video by Katie and/or other PA members to help spread the word about planned activities, especially in the current climate when everyone is time strapped and it's easy to overlook or miss ParentMail updates. KH agreed to take this forward.