

Parents' Association Minutes

22nd September 2020

Attendees:

Kate Harris (KHA)
Katie Holmes (KHO)
Jen Cottingham (JC)
Ruth Box (RB)
Gemma Brickwood (GB)

Fundraising

In light of the current climate and Covid challenges, the level of fundraising will be greatly reduced this year. A number of fundraising ideas were proposed and discussed including:

- **Cake sales** - The weekly cake sale can resume as soon as possible on Friday afternoons. An ideal location for the cake stall would be under the tree where the uniform sales are now held. Strict social distancing measures will need to be put in place with parents manning the stall wearing gloves and masks and buckets used to collect money. Exact change will be required. Pre-wrapped cakes should be encouraged.
- **Personalised Xmas cards** – This was a very successful fundraising idea last year and will be easy to arrange in the current climate. KHA will follow up with Caroline Plumb who organised the Xmas cards last year.
- **School merchandise** e.g. tea towels, bags for life. It would be fairly easy to add additional items to the school uniform list with any payments made via ParentMail. The PA agreed to explore options.
- **School/house stationery** – pencils, rulers, rubbers in house colours and possibly personalised with names. This could be quite popular now children are having to bring their own stationery to school. JC to look into costs and options to bulk buy. The PA discussed the idea of gifting a pencil to every child in order to launch the new range and to tie this in with the first House day of the school calendar.
- **Halloween** – the Spooky Disco is unlikely to go ahead this year due to current Covid restrictions. Instead, it was suggested the children be allowed to attend school in Halloween fancy dress for the day with a £1 donation to the PA. The annual pumpkin competition could also be used to raise funds this year.
- **Fun Run** – any Fun Run this year would need to be staggered for year bubbles over the course of a day or weekend. KHA agreed to follow up with Simon Jones who normally organises the event.
- **Virtual Quiz/Escape Room** – hopefully this would be a popular event with parents, especially as the last quiz was cancelled during the lockdown. Ideally the PA would organise this through a professional company. The PA could negotiate with local takeaway joints to provide discounted meals for quiz participants.

- **School lottery** – this could be a fairly simple fundraising idea and other schools run similar events like the “100 club”. There are different options available either through the Elmbridge Community Lottery or other school lottery sites. JC to look into options and report back.
- **Welly swap/Xmas jumper swap** – KHO to follow up with Mrs Cunningham to see if extra wellies are needed for the new Woodland zones.
- **Virtual Xmas fair** - KHA to follow up with the Ball team to see if they’d be interested in running some Xmas events in place of the annual Christmas Bazaar.

Swimming Pool

A project manager has been appointed and structural surveys undertaken. The surveys have flagged some structural defects in the pool itself. Further consideration is needed to examine whether the existing pool should be upgraded or replaced in its entirety. If the latter, there are additional considerations regarding the relocation of the pool to a more suitable location. A cost surveyor is currently pricing up the different options.

KHA queried whether PA fundraising should prioritise the pool project. It was agreed given the long-term nature of the pool project, current PA fundraising should focus on the school’s immediate needs.

KHO queried whether the money raised so far for the pool project can be redirected to pay for repairs of the existing pool in the short term or whether that money can only be used for specific development purposes. GB confirmed the pool funding conditions stipulate specific development aims that must benefit the wider community, not just the school.

Tablets

The school urgently needs additional tablets for the teachers. Friends of Claygate are providing the funds to buy seven tablets. KHA and KHO confirmed they will follow up with Mrs Cunningham to see what other urgent things the school may need which the PA can help with.

Newsletter

KHA confirmed she would organise a newsletter to be circulated this half term and drum up interest for new volunteers.

Date of next PA meeting

JC to arrange the next PA meeting via Zoom. The date of the next meeting is TBA.