



# Friends of Marlborough St Mary's Primary School

Charity no: 1128242  
friends.msm@yahoo.com

## Minutes – Friends of Marlborough St Mary's Meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Present: Becky Deane, Lou Avis, Claire Presley, Mr Goodman, Mrs Pawlaczek, Rosy Presley, Anita Renn, Amy Hall, Georgie Green, Annie O'Shaughnessey, Pippa Head, Kim Francis, Nadine Johnson, Clare Saunders.

Apologies: Sam Palmer, Monica Braithwaite, Jacqui Dillon, Christina Borg, Kerry Ann Russell, Carly Wise, Karen Murawski.

### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by Becky Deane.

### **3. Christmas Fair up-date**

The Christmas Fair was a huge success, I don't think we've ever seen so many people in the school. We've received so many compliments, so a huge thank you to everyone who attended, donated and helped. We would also like to thank the Staff and parent helpers with the organisation of the event – set up, clearing away and running the stalls.

Takings were £6360.00, expenses £1141.00 (still a few more to process), current profit £5219.

Outdoor market had an issue with the lighting initially. Thanks to James O'Shaunessy who saved the day and brought lighting to the school. It was cold outside on the evening of the Fair, so feedback for next time was it would be nice to be indoors. CP raised the point if it was worth the extra work for £10 per stall, we felt we probably would not do this again. We would ask Nick back to sell his trees as he seemed to sell a few and he always supports the school.

Food went down very well, particularly the pigs in blankets and frankfurters. Quite a lot of turkey left so our catering numbers were too high. It would be good if we could use the school kitchen serving hatch next time. Michelle Morley has kindly offered to help and support the Friends events with kitchen use and support with cooking if required and she is available.

Sweet stall sold out early again, so potentially could do even more bags next time as with some other stalls, prizes ran out quickly and needed to close.

Raffle huge success raising nearly £3000. Hampers look incredible and we had so many. Thank you to all businesses that donated and to all parents that donated towards the Class Hampers.

The Grotto was amazing this year thanks to Nadine Johnson and her husband! Very popular. Thanks also to Paul the Caretaker for being FC!

Elfridge's – really popular, but we had some issues with some of the presents not getting here in time. Next year we would reduce the prices and get more stock. PH mentioned in a previous school the PTA would go in during the school day and run this event, so the children would go to school with money and chose a gift for mum/dad and wrap it up. Also asking parents for any unwanted Christmas presents/toiletries in January.

Bottle Tombola – PH feedback that the odds for winning were too good! Note for next fair to make this harder and potentially charge more – some mixed views on pricing on other stalls.

Books/2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniform/2<sup>nd</sup> hand fancy dress – we just wanted to get rid of these items as they were taking up valuable space in the shed, so we just said take what you want for a donation. What was left was passed over to Burbage school for their Fair. We still have some logo uniform left.

Ideas for the next Fair would be to spread down the KS2 corridor. Also supply a map of where everything is or put more white boards around the school to direct people.

We are pleased to say no fake notes were found this time. Thanks to Georgie Green for supplying the torches.

#### **4. Calendar Up-date**

We still have some of the Marlborough St Mary's 2023 Calendars left. We have resent letters out, should you wish to purchase one please contact Anita Renn or the Friends.

Feedback from some parents were that they may not purchase if their child's picture is not on there. Anita suggested perhaps we could do a similar thing like the Tea Towels where each child draws a picture of themselves.

#### **5. Christmas Card Up-date**

The Christmas cards were lovely and great quality. This venture with Print Image, Wagon Yard in Marlborough seemed to work really well being in Marlborough. It is nice for the school to build relationships with local businesses. £615.00 taken on this project.

#### **6. Playground Up-date**

We are extremely excited to announce that we now have enough money to give the go ahead for the Key Stage 1 Play Castle! This has been booked in to start next Wednesday. Mr Goodman announce the children are super excited. He also suggested doing a grand unveiling to celebrate the hard work that has gone in to raising the money to pay for this equipment. Mrs P suggested inviting the newspaper and the children along with parents/carers. BD suggested potentially asking the Mayor and Mike the Town Crier.

Mr Goodman spoke about potentially re-thinking the next stage for the Key Stage 1 playground, it was hoped we could clear the bushes from the bank and utilise that space. We spoke about having a day where parents could come in and help clear the area.

## **7. Disco**

Date agreed for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb (last day of term). Valentines Disco. Marcus booked, he agreed to do the same price as last year £150 cash on the night. All bookings have been made with Karen and after school club cancelled. All agreed to keep the ticket price low again at £1.50 to include a drink and packet of crisps. Claire Saunders to speak to Miss Burdge about how they feel it would be best for The Orchard children to attend and at what timeslot or if we could potentially do a toned down, sensory disco for them. Once agreed letter is ready to go out and ticket sales rota to be started. We plan to sell tickets ourselves this time as we used to as a few issues with them being sold in school and we don't want to put more work on the Teachers. We felt the last disco was too chaotic with Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Acorn, so we felt this time we would do Reception, Year 1 first, then Years 2, 3, and 4 and finally Years 5 and 6. Mrs P will arrange for Staff helpers and has done class lists for the ticket sales. Lots of helpers already from the Class Reps and First Aiders. Will need to buy crisps, squash and sweets for the best dressed and dancing competition prizes. It was raised if tickets could be paid via Parentpay, but we would need to check with Karen as the school and the Friends are separate.

## **8. Bingo**

We thought it would be nice to try some different ideas and all felt Family Bingo would be great fun. We felt around Easter time would be good, CP to speak to Mr C re a date and booking use of the school. Karen Giddings has bingo equipment; we would need to check on bingo cards and dabbers. We could run a bar and there was alcohol left from the Christmas Fair – LA to speak to Sarah Nash re arranging a licence. Also run a snack bar and hold a raffle.

We could hold a non-uniform day in payment of chocolate/eggs, which would make up the prizes. PH suggested playing Heads/Tails in between each game as a bit of fun.

Mrs P to count up number of tables so we can get an idea of possible numbers, we would need to sell tickets due to number restrictions.

## **9. Cake Van**

Our first visit from GlamoRose cakes was a huge success. The van pulled up at the front of the school and there was a good amount of people queuing. Cakes looks amazing. We made £49.00, which is 10% of takings. We have booked again for 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, pre-ordering is an option. We would potentially look at a possible Ice Cream van in the Summer or look to sell ice creams ourselves. We would need to check on freezer space with Michelle.

## **10. Ball**

The Friends are still very keen to plan a Ball this year. We were thinking of a Spring Ball, but with time running out we talked about a Summer Ball. CP to speak to Mr Crossman re dates and use of the Town Hall as we are the Mayors Charity. AO also mentioned that staff at Marlborough College can get use of the Marlburian Hall for £50, so this would be another option. Mr Goodman said the school is very keen to have a good relationship with Marlborough College. We talked about whether a Cocktails and Canapes theme would be better than a formal sit down 3 course dinner.

## **11. Sponsored Bounce**

CP advised that we always did the Sponsored Bounce in February. All agreed this would be a fun event to do again for the children as we haven't been able to do this since 2020 due to Covid. Mr Goodman did not see any reason why this could not go ahead. CP to speak to Mr Crossman re potential dates. BD to contact Becky Knox at FACE to see about hiring the bouncy castle from them.

## **12. Sports Kit**

Kirsty Miles approached the Friends to see if we would pay approximately £800 for more Sports Kit as we don't have enough tracksuits and we are doing more sports competitions. The Friends agreed that we would contribute, however, it all agreed it would be nice if Kirsty could come up with a fundraiser to raise some money towards it. Therefore, Kirsty arranged the Santa Dash, which raised approximately £178. Kirsty has spoken to Karen about how we go about invoicing for this, will get back to LA. Mr Goodman and Mr Crossman are focused on promoting the school and all felt this was a great idea, having the children looking smart representing the school as we are doing so well in our Sporting Competitions. LA also mentioned about getting a few adult tracksuits.

## **13. Business Donations**

A big shout out and thank you to two Marlborough businesses – firstly Brearley & Rich Estate Agents who launched a World Cup competition that was opened up to votes and Marlborough St Mary's won £325. Also, the Charcoal Grill who kindly donated £200.

Also, another request if anyone works for a Company such as Vodafone, who offer Match Funding if a member of staff helps at one of our events. If you do, please contact the Friends.

## **14. Bags2school**

Booked again for 23<sup>rd</sup> January, also 24<sup>th</sup> April. Information will be going out on Dojo. AO raised about having a permanent skip for collections in the school car park. This was a no when Mrs Schwodler was in school, but we will raise again with Mr Crossman. AO to look into more details.

## **15. Tesco Tokens**

Going extremely well, keep posting a token until 15<sup>th</sup> January. We were reminded by Tesco to ask the children to only post 1 token, which we have always promoted. First prize would mean £1500 – please keep voting and spread the word to friends and family. Thank you!

## **16. Treasurer's Report**

Bank Balance = £20,410 - £433 for Children in Need.

Christmas Fair takings were £6360, expenses currently £1141 but still a few to pay, current profit £5219.

Other items:

Tesco Collection	£251
Brearley & Rich	£325
Christmas Cards	£615

The Friends also brought and paid for the books that were given as presents to the children at Christmas.

## **17. Banking Up-date**

All paperwork has been done for the switch from Barclays to Lloyds, should be a two-week process to switch.

## **18. Day of meeting change**

Some of the main Committee are struggling to do a Wednesday evening due to work/after school clubs. The majority could do a Thursday, so as from the next meeting our meetings will now be on a Thursday. CP also suggested 8pm might be too late, therefore we will try 7.30pm.

### **19. Any other business**

BD has been looking into getting a permit, so we can use the pavement outside Superdrug. This would give us permission to use twice a year and could be used for selling raffle tickets etc etc.

PH saw the teachers playing/training Cricket, she thought it would be fun to arrange an event where the Teachers play a sport and the children can back whichever teacher they wish. This then led on to a potential race night, where the horses are named after the Teachers.

PH also suggested a Cinema night at school where each class choose their film and pay for their ticket to include a hot dog/popcorn, drink! We had mentioned about getting one of the outdoor Cinema companies in to have a film on the field and invite families to bring picnics. AO confirmed she knows of a company so will look into further.

CP mentioned the Friends would like to start contributing towards class trips again. This used to happen pre-covid.

CP also mentioned about having a Friends Night out, which would be open to everyone - all parents, carers, staff – date TBC.

### **20. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – 7.30pm – The Roebuck. We all felt the face-to-face meetings are much better than online so we will continue with this.