



Of Saint George's

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### **Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**Present:** Kate Cunliffe, Lisa Gateley (minutes), Mrs. Hicks, Sarah Jones, Paul Bennell, Ian Raine, Andy Holliday, Belinda Bull and Mr. Gent.

**Apologies:** Dunstan Power, Debbie Key, Julian Radcliffe, Danielle Mundy, Jenny Haines, Ellie Heffernan, Adrian Heffernan, Tim Cunliffe, Denise Tong, Bernie Long, Nicola Duffy, Becky Davies, Mr. Painter, Mrs. Cooper, Ann Ash, Sally Summerton, Gary Beaston and Angela Onions.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Sarah Jones raised the following point. In the third paragraph on page two it suggests that Mr. Painter referred to year five children, when in fact it was meant as referring to any school age children. The remainder of the minutes were approved as a true reflection of the meeting.

**Bags to School:** The collection has been booked for 1<sup>st</sup> December at 8.45am. Bags and leaflets were sent home with seven committee members to prepare for distribution in school. Each member took home enough for one class. (Kate Cunliffe – Reception, Lisa Gateley – year one, Belinda Bull – year two, Andy Holliday – year three, Ian Raine – year four, Paul Bennell – year five and Sarah Jones – year six).

**Calendar of Events:** The calendar was e-mailed to committee members prior to the meeting. The aim of the calendar was to implement this into the website so that families had more notice of events and were therefore able to plan ahead. Also, it was hoped that other ideas from committee members may be suggested. The topics raised from the calendar were:

- Easter Bonnets/Easter Poetry Competition. This was looked upon favourably.
- Andy Holliday raised the point that there doesn't seem to be a BIG fundraiser planned for March/April/May, as has been done in the past.
- Ian Raine mentioned the NCPTA ideas workshop he and Kate attended and agreed to circulate the notes from this as a way of introducing new ideas.
- Kate mentioned that Kathy Willett had shown great enthusiasm in organising a 'Kids Fashion Show'. A proposal is planned of how this could be organised.

- Kate suggested an ‘art event’ which Mrs. Hicks suggested may be incorporated during ‘Arts Week’. The possibility of the children producing artwork that could be framed and presented in a ‘gallery’ type scenario was discussed. Mrs. Hicks referred to a similar event some years ago using an outside source. The company used came into school and organised the whole event. Kate queried whether it was something Friends could arrange without using an outside source. Mr. Gent raised concerns over equipment needed to present the artwork. The possibility of borrowing such equipment was mentioned. Kate will look into this.
- A list of other suggestions regarding the BIG fundraiser would be circulated by Kate in order to gather feedback on what other committee members would like to see happen.
- Paul Bennell would like events that the children can come along to. One possibility for this type of event was ‘Ask the Audience’. The equipment required to carry out this would be borrowed from another school. Mr. Gent and Kate to discuss. Mrs. Hicks suggested using Class Catering to supply the food; however they must receive enough notice about this.

**Non-uniform Day:** Kate made the suggestion that we change this from termly to half termly. It was agreed that this might be too often. This decision has since been backed by Mr. Painter.

**Parents Christmas Gathering:** A whole school event was suggested by Kate, to be held in the church hall. The only date the church hall is free for this is 6<sup>th</sup> December. Cost of this would be £10.00 per hour. Mrs. Hicks suggested using Keystones as an alternative and will speak to Maz about this.

**Raffle Prizes:** Received so far – Symphony Hall Event (of your choice), a child’s bike, La Tienda voucher, Paint Pots voucher. The De-luxe hamper will require donations from committee members. A case of wine was suggested as another prize, Andy Holliday agreed to ring around the major supermarkets for donations. A cash prize of £100 was suggested, but some committee members expressed concerns over this and suggested that possibly a major prize such as a TV, iPod or Nintendo DS would be more suitable than cash. It was pointed out that having this extra prize may not bring in extra ticket sales. Mr. Gent has a contact at PC World who may be able to offer his staff discount in order to purchase an item of this nature.

#### **Santa’s Grotto:**

- Sarah Jones suggested having more than one Father Christmas at the grotto would be advantageous in terms of ‘waiting time’. The time spent queuing was taking away from time spent spending money on the stalls. Andy Holliday and Lisa Gateley agreed with this. Kate made the point that some children were ‘fed up’ with queuing and did not see Father Christmas. She also made the suggestion that he could visit during the school day. Mrs. Hicks said the magic of the ‘grotto experience’ could potentially be lost. A numbers system was suggested by Sarah Jones, but Mrs. Hicks pointed out that this hadn’t worked in the past. After much discussion Mr. Gent agreed that an extra Father Christmas could attend. Two grotto’s would therefore need to be prepared, in such a way that the children were unable to identify this. Belinda Bull will ask her Father to be the additional Father Christmas. Belinda also

offered to help set up the grottos. Mrs. Hicks mentioned the current Father Christmas suit being very old and suggested a new one is purchased. As there will be two Father Christmases two will be required. Lisa Gateley agreed to do this.

- Kate introduced the idea of having 'THE SNOWMAN' attend with his snow machine. This is a friend of Tim's who offers his services for free, only asking for a donation of approximately £33.00 to cover the costs of the snow machine. A vote was taken among committee members and a majority agreement was reached in favour of having this event. The final suggestion was that this could be held in the staff car park (staff should move their cars into the infant playground beforehand). It was agreed that the best time for the Snowman to present himself would be at the end of the Grotto. It was agreed in principal by Mr. Gent, however he showed major concern for the amount of mess left. Kate said she had asked about this and apparently it is minimal. Mr. Painter has since asked for assurance regarding this and will seek further information before offering complete agreement.
- The usual stalls/games will be included and Kate will send out a list of helpers required on the day. Mrs. Hicks will distribute the 'Countdown to Christmas' and a new flyer will be prepared by Lisa Gateley requesting Christmas themed cakes for the cake stall.
- Christmas Word Search which is usually prepared by Jack McArdle will be prepared by Lisa Gateley.

**Burn's Night:** Father Brian is organising this for the 23<sup>rd</sup> January and would like the help of Friends' in promoting the event.

**Dining Hall Mural:** Belinda Bull will liaise with Mr. Painter regarding needs/wants. Ian Raine volunteered his services.

**Story Sacks:** Kate announced that Anne-Marie had mentioned there had been little input. Mrs. Cooper suggested applying to LEAPP for an award.

**Any Other Business:**

- Mr. Gent pointed out that as a school with Eco Schools Status it would seem appropriate to promote this when requesting donations of products to school. If Fairtrade items could be brought in this would be supportive of this initiative.
- Mr. Gent mentioned a grant of £500 had been received in order to prepare a 'nursery bed' in the year 4/5 area. He is requesting the help of people to help clear the area. Mrs. Hicks will prepare bacon sandwiches in appreciation. The date for this is to be confirmed with Mr. Painter. Mrs. Hicks suggested it should be a weekend. A flyer should be prepared to include the 'Green Flag' status. The flyer will offer time slots which should be ticked, giving an idea of numbers attending throughout the day.
- Mr. Gent asked us to promote family and friends into making their applications to school for September 2009. The Open Day's are planned for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm.
- Kate raised the point of attaching flyers regarding various events to the fencing around the 'pick up' point. Mrs. Hicks said the staff at school were working very hard on focusing their attention on keeping the appearance of the school, clear and tidy and tying posters/flyers may alter this appearance.

- Mamma Mia Sing-along was suggested as Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Any strong objections to this should be made immediately to Kate. Andy Holliday suggested raising funds at this event. Lisa Gateley suggested £5.00 for entrance and a glass of wine. Kate will seek out a sub-committee to arrange tickets/wine sales etc. Any committee members willing to offer their services should contact Kate immediately.
- Lisa Gateley raised the point that Ellie Heffernan is owed £116.00 from Friends. Kate and Mrs. Hicks confirmed this was passed on to her today.
- Sarah Jones' 'thank you' card for the wine she received was passed around the committee members.
- Ian Raine verbally passed on his thanks for the vouchers received.
- Jan Warriner had requested that she is withdrawn from Friends, as she has embarked on a degree and is continuing to work; therefore her 'spare' time is very limited.
- Lisa Gateley was asked to raise an idea from Ellie Heffernan that instead of the children sending Christmas cards to their friend, a cork board be displayed in the reception area and the children pay £1.00 to display one card to all their friends. Ellie is happy to provide the cork boards. Apologies from Lisa that this was not raised at the meeting – please can it be discussed at the Grotto meeting. Since the meeting Mr. Painter has shown great encouragement of this idea but suggests that the cork boards are displayed in classrooms instead of in the school entrance. Mr. Painter suggested also sending a card to a child in Zambia along with a small gift (i.e. Pencil, rules etc) purchased with the £1.00 donations. He will discuss this further at the next meeting.

A meeting to discuss the **GROTTO** is planned for **Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm**. Please come along to this if you are free.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm