

## Minutes of Friends meeting 14/2/2014

Present: Emily Bennison, Sarah Harrison, Helen Marshall (Chair), Helen McNeil, Jo Munns, Julia Patterson, Catriona Penty, Helen Wilson, ML Thirlaway (for part on I pads)

**Previous minutes:** The minutes of the previous Friends meeting were approved.

**Parents contact register:** This has been distributed to parents. You are reminded that it is not a complete list of children in the school and if you wish to see a complete class list, please contact Mrs Stocks in the office.

Action: HMar to check with MLT if all parents should receive information about Friends activities as we are a Voluntary Aided school.

**Philippines Typhoon appeal:** it was confirmed that £200 has been donated (paid already).

**200 Club:** a letter from Chris Lofthouse was read out to say thank you for her involvement with the 200 Club (which has contributed £600 to the Friends). After 18 years she is stepping down from organising this with Jayne Cole. Ed Bennison is taking over CL's role.

Action: HMar will send a letter to CL to say thank you and will organise a plant to show the Friends' appreciation for her efforts over the years.

**IT upgrade:** £650.59 recently paid representing 10% to school for IT upgrade. 90% paid by school fund.

**Authorised cheque signatories:** now updated listing Helen Marshall, Helen McNeill, Sarah Harrison, Jo Munns, Emily Bennison, Julia Patterson, Georgina Bean; Hester Robinson has been removed.

**Bags to school:** Our next collection will be on **20<sup>th</sup> May 2014**. Hang on to your unwanted clothing etc!

**Able Labels:** labels, named bags, labelled pens, etc give us 20% commission on any orders placed on their website, <http://www.able-labels.co.uk/>, using the code BTS30. So far we have raised £10.50, it is worth checking out their offer, and don't forget to use the code!

**Treasurer's report:** Funds out: Philippines £200, ICT upgrade £650.59, £327 for 50% of text messages. Funds received: Able Labels £10.50, last newsletter (Matt Woods) £35. Dunsforth pub has not yet paid (Action: Sue Timoney to check with them).

Balance: £17,500

### **Future Events**

***Valentines disco:*** A great success! 56 children attended. £113 raised for The Friends, thank you to Sue Timoney for organising a fun event.

***Race Night 8<sup>th</sup> March:*** Tickets still available!

Action: A sign-up sheet will go up asking for volunteers to 1) provide salads 2) provide puddings 3) run the bar and 4) be a bookmaker. (HMar)

***Auction:*** It has been decided not to host an Easter Egg Auction at school, but we do have some great prizes to auction on Race Night, including dinner for 2 at the Punch Bowl, Champagne tea delivered by Spellows, goodies Betty's, and we would be delighted to receive any further auction prizes from parents. If you are unable to attend on the night, but would like to bid for one of our superb prizes, please email your bid to Helen Marshall.

### **Other future fund raising currently being planned or proposed:**

***End of Easter term:*** to be discussed at the next meeting. Film night?

***Book fair:*** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> March. We have a different supplier this year in the form of "Scholastic". The Friends receive commission which MLT can use to buy books. Hold onto

your World Book Day tokens, worth £1 off, and you can spend them at the book fair. We will be open on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 15.15 to 16.00. Two helpers needed for each day: Tuesday= Helen Wilson and possibly Sarah Harrison (to confirm); Wednesday= Margaret Jandrell plus one other needed; Thursday= Jo Munns and Julia Patterson

**Marketing newsletter:** we need more sponsors for future newsletters. SH will check if Atelier would sponsor it. Please can anyone with any ideas come forward? Edd Mason? HMc asked if sponsors are finding any benefit. The farm shop seems to have done well.

**Climbing wall:** this will come to school on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May, funded by the Friends out of money raised from the Mud Run. The Friends will take over running it after school and will organise a casual BBQ afterwards.

**Aldborough May Day:** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May. This is a great opportunity to promote our school and many families usually attend. We have been offered the chance to run face painting stall which should be a good money raiser and fun! Helen Wilson has offered to paint faces, but we will need more volunteers. Also tattoos and nail painting will be available. CP has confirmed with Aldborough May Day committee that this is all OK.

### New ideas:

1. ***A book of our favourite walks***, authored by various parents/teachers or others linked to our school or Marton-cum-Grafton locals.

There will be an extra Friends meeting on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March from 9am at Helen Marshall's house (Millers Barn, opposite Spellows) to brain storm about this. The reason for this location is that we would therefore have an internet connection to look at Google Maps, etc.

So far, information/ideas are as follows (all of which can be discussed at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup>):

- We would target selling 200 copies.
- With a colour cover, we have a quote for £320 to print 200 copies, 40 pages, in A5 size, which we would sell for £5 each. Therefore, after selling 60 copies we would break even. Approx 20 walks with a double page per walk.
- Walks and possibly also bike rides starting within a 20 mile radius of Marton-cum-Grafton with a 2-page spread per route. Families can submit more than one walk.
- Potential printers: Hillsprint was mentioned, and MLT suggested Enid Taylor
- Perhaps KS1 and KS2 could design the front cover.
- Someone needs to double-check all the text to make sure peoples' instructions are accurate. It needs to be stylized to be interesting and not just too much script. Information would include a difficulty rating, the distance, whether or not pushchair friendly, a photo, map reference, and an explanation as to why the author likes that walk. HMc has offered to put all script into a similar format.
- Would it be feasible to take just one sheet at a time on a walk? (easier to carry)
- We could try to find sponsors/advertising for the book, targeting local pubs where a walk might start and finish.
- Can we borrow the school pedometers?
- Target timing: Determine by the end of this term who and how many walks we would have coming our way; during Easter holidays and summer term, write and submit walks by 1<sup>st</sup> May bank holiday and then during the rest of the term, each walk needs to be verified by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to check accuracy.
- Launch date: September, with a major push at the Friends coffee morning in October.

Action: HMar will produce a template for the extra meeting on 14th and will also try to sell some advertising.

2. ***Something sponsored for children to raise funds?*** Experience shows that this generates good money and does not take too much effort. MLT pointed out that anything off school premises would require a lot of helpers. Last time it was a sponsored assault course at RAF Linton on Ouse. Action: HMar to follow up with MLT

**IPads:** school has already started using the 5 already owned. MLT presented a list of ways in which they have been used so far (speech pronunciation, maths, those struggling with writing, French for vocabulary, music composition). This helped to clarify how they would be used to support learning. The Ipad2 is adequate and used by other schools.

Questions put to MLT and answered by her included: 1) security (everything would go through the school wireless network/firewall to be secure); 2) Would Friends continue to fund the project or would it be a one-off? (A one-off as school would pay for Apps). 3) Additions of further Ipads (school would fund small quantities or one or two additions at a time as and when needed); 4) will the new curriculum affect anything? (No because we are already using the new curriculum in school. In fact, it fits in better than the previous curriculum).

The cases seem expensive at £40 so MLT will try to find a cheaper source for these (Amazon?), but the Ipads themselves will probably come from "Schools IT" who will come to school and set everything up for us. To save costs, we could perhaps buy 10 from them and 5 from a cheaper source, so that we get the free set up but can shop around.

Headphones will be of the over-the-head and over-the-ear type, rather than airline-style ear-pieces. Any parents who still have concerns about hygiene can provide their own for their own children.

Overall the response was very positive. It was decided that in principle the Friends will fund the purchase of 15. MLT to submit to HMar final cost estimate. The project will go-ahead asap and The Friends will review the investment in September.

**Next Friends meetings:**

14<sup>th</sup> March, 9am, at Helen Marshall's house to discuss the book of walks.

21<sup>st</sup> March, 9am, at school.