

## Friends Meeting Minutes.

January 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

**Present:** Helen Marshall (Chair) Helen McNeill, Sarah Harrison, Helen Medd, Rachel Flatt, Amy Haynes, Jo Munns, Tamara Hartley, Sue Timoney, Sue Rooke, Catriona Penty, Helen Wilson, Bianca Gaspar, Heidi Beattie, ML Thirlaway present for ipad discussion.

### **1. Actions from last meeting.**

- The secret room raised £174.61 and the children all really enjoyed it, thank you to everyone who helped to organise this event.
- The art exhibition raised over £1000 and £200 has been donated to the disaster emergency committee for the Philippines (HM to check whether this has been sent). Thank you to the exhibitors and for everyone's help over that weekend.
- The whole school pantomime trip was successful and much appreciated by all concerned.
- All tickets have now been sold for The 200 club, thank you to Jayne Cole.
- The parents contact register is now 90% complete and not all parents wish to be on it. Suggestion made for Childs name to be on it without contact details. (Action HM ).

### **2. Treasurers report**

- Current account £13,045, there may be still some money due out for the IT upgrade last year (action HM).
- Sue T mentioned that last years open gardens money was identified for transport costs for this year (action HM)
- Due to committee changes, 2 more signatories are needed for the current account, Helen Marshall, Helen McNeill and Sarah Harrison will be added and the mandate form will be updated.

### **3. Spending commitments**

- £336 raised by Morrison's bag packing will go towards year 5/6 residential, autumn term 2014. This is a very worthwhile fundraiser and benefits many. It can however only go ahead again this year if there are enough KS2 parents who volunteer to help on the day. If anyone feels they would like to take on the organisation of a bag packing session at Morrison's, please speak to Helen Marshall.
- £270 was raised from the Mud Run which has been identified for a childrens activity. Consultation with the children resulted in the suggestion of hiring a climbing wall. Currently checking availability but the preferred date is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May following SATS. We hope to have the wall from 2-5pm, followed by a BBQ.

### **4. Future fundraising**

- **Children's Valentine disco** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February for the whole school from 5.30-7pm. All welcome but reception children would need a parent /carer to stay with them. Keyholder is also needed. SR to provide Karaoke machine and lights. £3 includes glow stick, with drink and crisps. Confirmed to help: Dominic Marshall, Sue R, Tamara, Bianca, Helen Marshall, Sue T (organiser).
- **A Night at the Races.** A new date of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Marton Village Hall. Ticket will include supper of lasagne from the Punch Bowl, and The Friends would like to provide salads and chocolate brownies. Tickets to go on sale this week, available from Helen Marshall.
- Possible Easter egg auction, some discussions as to the large effort required for this event however it was felt that it would be good to try it again this year on 4<sup>th</sup> April. HM to put a list of possible donors together. Any other suggestions of donors gratefully received.

- AH suggested an egg decorating competition – this depends what MLT has planned for Easter already.
- The book fair will be held between 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> March
- Matt Woods is a personal trainer and he is sponsoring the Friends news letter for January . If there are any other businesses who would like to sponsor the newsletter please contact Sue T.
- Possibility of taking part in Wetherby people chase, please see Sue T if you are a runner or have made any sporting new years resolutions!
- Bags to school will continue, Tamara to coordinate this, thank you.

#### 5. **Possible funding of iPads**

MLT informed Friends of the schools request for 20 iPads and trolley charging unit to enable 1 between 2 pupils. She highlighted the need for them and that other local primary schools have them and they are utilised effectively.

Many questions asked by Friends and there was a lengthy discussion, the main points highlighted were:

- Clarification is needed as to exactly how the teachers would incorporate them effectively in their classrooms.
- Would The Friends continue to fund the project (eg repairs or further purchases) or would it be a one off cost? Clarification needed from MLT.
- MLT confirmed that through research they had concluded that the iPad2 offers adequate functionality and that later models (with improved cameras) are not required.
- Would it be cheaper to bulk buy them? Unlikely as Apple keep their prices as standard, there are very few sales etc. They all have a 12 month warranty. They do not need to be purchased from the school suppliers, they can be purchased from anywhere
- A parent may be able to bulk buy some covers (HM to follow up)
- Concerns were raised about using so much of the funds available on just this as Friends were set up for “nice to have” items and usually only pay for 10% of costs.
- Suggestions were made on fundraising for this specifically, possibly sponsored events, MLT to talk to school council about this.

Questions asked whether 20 ipads are needed now to be effective. Suggestion of purchasing 10 now and another 10 in the next financial year (from September 2014).

In summary MLT is going to write a document for staff to commit to their specific use and whether 15 would be a sufficient number to start with. Friends have not committed to the project at this stage however concerns were raised that the further consultation does not continue for too long. MLT reassured everyone present that iPads would not detract from the essential hand writing etc which the children learn but would enhance the curriculum as a whole. Further information will be provided and a final decision will be made as soon as there is further clarity of the situation.

#### 6. **AOB**

- Mrs Stocks has reminded committee members and those who regularly help out at school, to fill in their applications forms for the DBS (new CRB).

#### 7. **Date of next meeting**

- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 9am school Hall