

Friends of St Francis

Minutes from meeting held at 7pm at The Pippin, 16.02.15

1. Christmas

Feedback from Christmas was positive, with funds raised totalling £2384.29; of which £220.85 was from the year 6 stalls at the Fair. A donation of £171.32 was also made to Save The Children.

It was felt that the Chocolate Tombola was a popular alternative to the decorated jars for a Christmas Fair, this year we aim to have chocolate items donated in the run up to the Fair.

It has been suggested that this year The Friends coordinate an item, to be chosen at a later date, to be made by the children to be sold, either at the Fair or an order basis – such as ornaments, cards etc. This has been done in the past with some success so will be easily put into place with support from the school.

A suggestion was made to look at having a bouncy castle at the Fair this year, this would be subject to finding a suitable space.

The Year 6 children and staff were praised and thanked for their input at the Fair.

This year we hope to hold a coffee afternoon following the nativities as this was an event that was missed this year due to the nativities being later.

It is hoped that some new events will be added to The Friends calendar for this year's Christmas celebrations, if you have any suggestions for these, or if you want to get your name down for volunteer spots early, please let the committee know.

2. Spring Disco – 6th March

This will include both an infant and junior event this year, the junior disco will run to the same format as previously. The infant disco will run directly after school, with staff support to help the children get ready. To avoid the little ones being too daunted by the event, it has been decided that ticket price for the infants will be higher than that of the junior disco as the children will not be bringing spending money. Instead all tickets will include drinks and snacks, details of which will follow as options are considered. Tickets may also include a glostick or similar product as is available for purchase at the junior disco. This is cost dependant and will be confirmed in the letter which is sent home in book bags.

As this is a trial event, feedback on it will be appreciated as we would like to make this as inclusive for the infant children as possible. If you available to help prepare for or volunteer to chaperone either disco, please let Kylie know.

3. Mother's Day Sale – 12th and 13th March

Two sales will be held, the larger on the Thursday, with a smaller sale available for anyone unable to attend the first, on the Friday. Some items have already been purchased, and items identified as being suitable were discussed.

We will need volunteers to both purchase items, and prepare them for sale as well as to run the sales. If you can help in any way please let Kylie know ASAP, many thanks.

4. Summer Fair – 4th July

The theme of a Medieval Fair was decided on as it is the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, and the opportunities for supporting learning and coordinating with the school on this event to make it as successful as possible, made it the strongest idea.

Alongside displays from pupils it is hoped that The Friends will be able to source various authentic medieval entertainments.

If you would like to be involved in planning or running the Fair please contact Kylie. Further, if you know that your company or organisation would be interested in sponsoring the event, please get in touch.

We will be looking for some vendors and entertainment, if you, or someone you know would like details on being part of this event, please contact Kylie.

5. Purchase requests from school

The school have approached The Friends with a number of requests for purchases to support the curriculum, for future requests The Friends are going to ask that a specific form be submitted by the school; these will be made available in the staff room.

Since the AGM arrangements have been made to supply every class with their own digital camera to be used to support lessons and document what the children do.

A specific meeting will be arranged soon to discuss requests from the school in order to give them appropriate consideration.

6. AOB

Following a discussion with Mrs Blanden prior to the meeting, it has been agreed that The Friends will have more of a presence at events such as parents evenings and following key assemblies and Masses, this will be to publicise the work of The Friends, enabling us to reach the widest range of parents, and also in order that The Friends can be seen to be working alongside the school more closely. With an aim to be more social and approachable, The Friends will be asking to hold a few coffee

afternoons, with parents sitting in the car park asked to come in, and hopefully reaching a different group of parents to those who stay for coffee mornings.

The idea of having Parent Class Reps was revisited, this will take some fine tuning in cooperation with the school, but it is hoped that this will be in place by the summer with the aim to hold some Rep Forums next academic year. Please look out for more information on this to follow, however if you think this is a role you would be suitable for please contact Kylie to express an interest.

It was noted that Friends meetings should be advertised as being for all to attend, rather than solely for committee members. The committee would like to apologise if this has caused any confusion.

Socials for adults were discussed as The Friends are keen to get a few dates in the diary to encourage parents, grandparents and all friends of the school to come along and meet some new faces to strengthen our school community. Suggestions included reviving a more interactive, exciting Quiz Night, hosting a pot luck dinner, a mum's night out, and a dad's soccer tournament. **If you have any suggestions for events, have any contacts that could support The Friends, or are interested in becoming involved in these yourself, please contact Kylie.**

May we take this opportunity to remind all that we are always looking for new volunteers, opinions and support, if you are interested to find out how you can get involved, please contact the committee or come along to any Friends event and introduce yourself.