**FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S SCHOOL (FOSMS) MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY 2025**

**1**. **Present**: Leanne Matthews (LM) and Rhian McLeod (RM), Hannah Thomas (HT) and Michelle Pharo (MP) joined online.

**Apologies**: Sandra Clark (SC), Sam De Wet (SDW), Emma Woods (EW), Krysta Collins (KC), Sarah Milward (SM) Rob Addison (RA), Kirsty Semple (KS), Megan Medcalf (MM) Rob Addison (RA) and Shonni Ostridge (SO).

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

**3. CHAIRPERSON’S UPDATE**

LM gave a summary of our Autumn terms activities.

The following shows the activities FOSMS have carried out and things we have been able to fund over the last term.  
  
We launched the class coin challenge where we will fund match the class that raises the most up to £100. The other two classes will keep what they raise but with no fund match for class resources. This will run until the end of March.  
  
We took advantage of the no cold child initiative and managed to secure winter coats for families at a cost of £10 each.  
  
We launched our preloved uniform Eshop.  
  
We held a “Firework” Disco which was a super success and was fully funded by the Denny Family. They paid for the entertainer and also the food and refreshments. We made £262.28.  
  
We secured a sponsor (£100) for kindness day which was successfully run by our year 6 girls. We were able to purchase all resources and small prizes for the girls to have what they needed.  
  
Elfridges Christmas Sale - £259.06  
Christmas Movie night - £131.61  
Christmas Raffle - £371.58  
Name the Elf - £20.00  
Reverse Snowman Raffle - £22.89  
Kevin the Carrot’s adventures £19.02  
  
All of the Christmas activities combined raised £824.17 which is just incredible. The raffle made up the majority (£371.58) which was so well supported. The Sum Up machine has really helped to boost sales.  
  
We also ran the Christmas card project via cauliflower cards, we are expecting £51.00 commission.  
  
Asda cash pot which will be paid to us before the end of March raised £278.12.  
  
Easy fundraising has brought in £193.27 so far where we earn when our supporters shop.  
  
We paid for the panto coach at a cost of £426.00 for the whole school which helped to make the trip affordable for all families. We also provided sweets and popcorn for the children to enjoy.  
  
We paid for all children to have Christmas lunch at a cost of £150.00, we paid for the festive table wear and a small Christmas gift for each child in place of a Christmas cracker - costing £133.40. We invested in wipe clean tablecloths and by removing Christmas cracker waste we have been very eco friendly this year!  
  
We paid £843.07 for term 1’s class reading books to compliment the English curriculum. With careful shopping around we managed to save £625.73 off the retail price of the books.  
  
We have a projected spend of £250.00 coming up for term 2 books.  
  
Our next planned event is the Mother’s Day / Special Person Sale in March.   
  
We currently have £5056.18 in the bank. This includes the £1050.00 Fords Grant that is to be used towards upgrading the playground in due course.  
  
Just this term we raised over £1700.00 and we spent over £1600.00 directly on the children of St Mary’s.

4. **Treasurers Update**

In the absence of SC, RM gave a short finance update.

RM stated that we currently have £4921.03 in the bank after paying for the Mother’s Day Sale items and other small expenses.

RM confirmed that we had had a bumper Autumn term which was much needed to allow us the freedom to give back as much as we had to our school and our children.

RM explained that she was in the process of costing up the term 2 English curriculum books and would get us the best possible value for money. This would just leave us the final term to fund.

5. **Upcoming Events**

We have the following events planned for this term so far. Subject to change if we come up with any suitable money making ideas.

* Mother’s Day Sale – Friday 28th March during the school day.

**RM and LM to organise sale, and sum up details to parents.**

* Easter Egg Hunt for all Children – 4th April during the school day

**LM to purchase a treat for each child and check we have enough plastic eggs.**

* Easter Raffle – Tickets on sale from 3rd March and the draw will take place in school on Friday 4th April.

**All Members – Source raffle prizes. LM and RM source tickets and publicise to parents and families.**

6. **Grant / Funding Update**

LM informed members that it was her intention to apply to the Mister Gees Foundation, South Woodham Ferrers Town Council and also Woodham Ferrers Parish Council to see if they could help with a grant.

7. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business raised.

8. **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Thursday 3rd April, 7:30pm at The White Swan, Bicknacre.