

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL (FOSMS) MEETING

MINUTES

THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2024

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

Apologies: 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

Since our last meeting in September, we held our AGM which was really well attended by our parents and carers. In fact, we had representation for over a third of the children in school which is amazing! We sold cakes that were expertly made by Rhian allowing us to raise money in the process, so all in all a super end to an amazing first full year of FOSMS. I was happy to be re-elected as Chair and Rhian has become our Vice Treasurer as well as being re-elected as Vice Chair. We still have our longest serving member of the committee Sandra keeping us in the black as Treasurer.

I have been on to our bank to update our banking mandate accordingly. We have me, Rhian and Sandra with full access. My next job is to start the process of getting our newly appointed Vice Treasurer Rhian her own debit card for future purchases. I will endeavour to do this soonest.

We bought the next round of books for this term at a cost of £843.07, we made a saving of around £600 on retail process due to Rhian's fabulous spreadsheet and careful shopping around – we are still hoping to find funding to offset some of this cost. Mrs Walker had kindly offered us schools £200 book voucher which was raised from the travelling book fair. This will be used towards our third terms books.

We have paid £425.00 for the coach to take the whole school on a trip to the pantomime – this has really helped to reduce the cost of the trip for parents.

We kicked off September with a Class Challenge – Coins in a Bottle which will run over the course of the year. The class that raises the most at the end of March 2025 will have their sum matched by FOSMS up to the value of £100 to go towards class resources. The other two classes will retain the monies they raise to treat themselves to new resources.

We had our first event of the year – Firework Disco which was kindly sponsored by The Denny Family. They covered the cost of an entertainer and also the food and drinks. This allowed us to make a super profit of £262.28. We have extended our thanks and appreciation to the Denny family.

We have had all of the children make a special piece of artwork for the Christmas card project – parents have submitted their orders via Cauliflower Cards and we should see a small income from this after Christmas.

We registered with the ASDA cashpot for schools through Parentkind which sees us earn money as registered users shop. We earn from any person signed up to our cause. We currently have

£253.42 in our pot and a further 9 days to add to the pot. I had a goal of £200 in my head which we have already exceeded.

We received a second payment from Easyfundraising where we earn while our supporter's shop, this payment was an incredible £193.27.

Again, through Parentkind we have had the No Cold Child initiative whereby families have been able to purchase a quality winter coat worth £60 for the price of £10. We placed an order for 13 coats which were received and distributed. All monies have been recouped from families and paid back in to the FOSMS bank account.

Rhian has kindly purchased us some amazing raffle tickets for the Christmas raffle which will go on sale from 10th December. Now we have our small lottery licence we can sell tickets in advance.

We have made a start on Christmas plans and have an alternative to a Christmas cracker in hand. This will see a reduction in cost and waste each child will also receive a lovely, personalised keepsake.

I would like to end my update by thanking Rhian and Sandra for their continued support and help keeping us on track. Your help and support mean the world to me.

4. Treasurers Update

SC (Treas) explained that we currently had £3631.30 in the bank and all receipts and invoices were up to date. She explained that the coach invoice had been paid, but we were awaiting a confirmation email from Fords of Althorn. SC updated the committee that to date we had spent a total of £1537.50 so far this year directly giving back to the children on St Mary's. This figure is made up of the coach, books, expenses for kindness day, the Christmas lunch and the Christmas festivities. We also spent £40.00 on a small lottery licence to allow us to sell our raffle tickets well in advance and away from the school premises to maximise sales.

5. Events

We have the following events planned for December – I will meet with Mrs Walker in the new year to propose our next terms events.

- Christmas Movie Night - Thursday 19th December 3:15pm - 5pm, movies will be voted on by the children, popcorn and juice will be served.
- Elfridge's Christmas Sale - Tuesday 10th December in the main school hall from 2:30pm.
- Christmas Raffle - Tickets will go on sale on Tuesday 10th December and the draw will take place on Wednesday 18th December after the parent's nativity - we already have some lovely prizes!

6. Grant update

RM explained that she had applied to Persimmons Homes for a grant of £6000 and it was her intention to continue to apply for grants this year to help with the Playground Project. She explained that it was getting tougher to identify grants that we would be eligible for as lots of companies had changed their eligibility parameters including the National Lottery. **ACTION LM and RM.**

7. Any Other Business

- Pre Loved E Shop – RM explained that she has received the uniform back that hadn't been catalogued or photographed for our E Shop. She explained that it was her intention to have it all on line over the coming two weeks for our families to have access to.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting would be on Thursday 23rd January at 7:30pm at The White Swan, Bicknacre.