

## Oatlands School PTA Meeting

5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Start of meeting 19.35

Present:

Carina MacKenzie - Chair	Julia Ford – Ladybirds
Sarah Read – Co-chair	Sian Williams – Bumblebees
Jono Gomez – Treasurer	Charlie Paphitis – Leopards
Vasti Grootz – Deputy Treasurer	Angeliki Grigoriou - Starfish
Mrs Mooney – Head Teacher	Busra Kanaligi - Tigers
Katie Isaac – Teacher Rep	Natasha Longton - Starfish
Alex Fitzpatrick – Community Coordinator	Marta Johnson - Bumblebees

### Welcome and Apologies

- Apologies received from Esther Biddle and Laura Rust.

### Minutes of last meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved without amendment and are available on the school website.

### Treasurers Report

- **JG presented figures** – It was confirmed that the current bank balance is £55k across the two accounts, although no outgoing payments have been made to the school to date for this academic year, and £3.5k deposit has been paid for the ball with no incomings yet received.
- **“Goodie Bags”** for the new Reception intake were discussed and agreed upon – to include details of who/what the PTA is, how to set-up a regular donation, company matching schemes (including those for regular donations and those for matching an event that an employee has volunteered at – JF happy to be contacted to support this), rebate codes for Stikins and other name label providers, key dates of events, role of the class reps etc

### Events Past

- **Treasure Hunt – 13<sup>th</sup> January** – A successful and well-received event. It was agreed to repeat this event next year at a similar time of year.
- **Quiz Night – 3<sup>rd</sup> February** – The electronic quiz provider was popular and the event was well received. We sold fewer tickets than previous years and bar sales were also lower. It was suggested that some people were put off by the smaller team sizes (6 per team). It was discussed that this event required a lot of effort and manpower in purchasing drinks for the bar and whether, going forward, it is worth contacting the Flintgate, Valentina’s or a mobile bar to make this easier and not be left with a lot of unsold stock.
- **Sponsored Bounce – 9<sup>th</sup> February** – The sponsored bounce raised around £1,500 from 94 families suggesting only a third of families donated. There was some discussion of whether there was some parent fatigue around the event but, given how much it is enjoyed by the children, it was agreed to repeat the event next year. Additional ideas of promoting it were suggested including sending home paper sponsorship forms or adverts in bookbags, and encouraging teachers to post photographs on Class Dojo alongside the sponsorship page link.
- **MAGS craft mornings – 5<sup>th</sup> March** – Crafts were completed today in school, and TM and AF commented on the calm atmosphere. It was agreed that the PTA will donate the materials this year and it will not be run as a profit-making event. Thanks were given to AG for the donation of the lipbalms.

### Events Future

## Spring Term

- **Painting and Prosecco night – 14<sup>th</sup> March** – This event has been cancelled due to poor ticket sales (only 10 tickets sold). Feedback from several people was that they did not like the painting project proposed. It was suggested that this event remain in the calendar for next year but with a Google Form or poll to gauge interest in various painting ideas before tickets go on sale or any costs are incurred.
- **Bake Sales** – This year's first Bake Sales will take place on the last week of term on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March. Year 1 will bake first, with more details to follow shortly. AG has offered to provide takeaway bags (leftover from last year's Fun Day). It was agreed that sales will happen outside the school gates (cash and card accepted) in exchange for plastic tokens borrowed from the school. These can then be used for payment. Parents of children attending Oscar will be permitted to pay in advance and a list will be given to Mrs Matthews who can escort them to the sale after the rush has died down – they will then take their cake choices home.

## Summer Term

- **Disco – 27<sup>th</sup> April** – Tiny Twisters have been booked at a cost of £350. Discos will be held with Reception 12.30-1.30, Year One 1.45-2.45 and Year Two 3-4pm. It was agreed that we will not provide snacks this year but instead ask children to bring their own water bottles. CM and TM to work together on a risk assessment for the event and to ensure that expectations of parent helpers are made clear. It was agreed to charge £5-6 per child.
- **Spring Ball – 11<sup>th</sup> May** – 200 tickets sold out within 12 hours. After table configurations were received, CP confirmed additional tickets were put on sale and around 220 have now been sold with almost all tables at full capacity. Only 10 parents have agreed to have an estate agent sign outside their home, compared to a target of 20-30. It was agreed that CP will recirculate the Google Form on Sunday evening to encourage more parent participation.
- **DUGS craft mornings – 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June** - Sarah Moody (Jellyfish mum) and AF to discuss potential craft project ideas with an aim to keep things relatively simple. The intention is to keep costs down so that the PTA can donate the materials without charging parents.
- **PTA Fun Day – 30<sup>th</sup> June** – Entry cost was discussed, including option for a higher charge including all activities inside the fair, although a cost of around £2pp is the most likely choice. We also briefly discussed options for making the Fun Day more eco-friendly – more ideas to be proposed at the next meeting and CM will also liaise with Ashley Artusa-Barrell (Bumblebee parent).
- **Family Camping event – 12-14<sup>th</sup> July** – Dates for the information evening (21<sup>st</sup> March), tickets on sale (26<sup>th</sup> April) and information evening for registered campers (13<sup>th</sup> June) have been circulated to parents. CM to also forward these dates to the school office.
- **Wine tasting evening – TBC (June/July)** – This will be discussed at a later date.
- **Further Bake Sales and Ice-cream Sales – TBC** – This will be discussed at a later date.

## AOB

- **PTA Spending** – Current committed spend projects were discussed. It was confirmed that the PTA will reassess ongoing agreed spend at the next AGM with an intention to focus on more compelling projects from a parent-perspective. In addition to this year's already committed spend of £20k, we have already agreed to fund £10k for the Oscar toilets and £2.5k for the school's new website. The school also requested whether we would be willing to pay £24k for new playground equipment. This was agreed and the school will give go ahead with the project at the earliest convenient date.
- **Treasury document storage** – No update. JG to follow up.
- **Leavers Hoodies** – CM confirmed that she has been in touch with Hartland Hoodies (same company as last year). The order will include one complimentary hoodie – CM to liaise with school office to determine a child/family that would benefit from this. Several parents commented on the sizing – suggest that we recommend to parents to purchase 1-2 sizes up. Details to order will be circulated in next few weeks – intention is for delivery in mid-June in plenty of time to be worn on camping weekend.
- **Class Whatsapp Group protocols** – The current protocols were discussed and it was agreed that they are too long. There was some discussion around the suggestion to remain “respectful”

to the school, with CM confirming she had received contrasting opinions from parents privately with some suggestions that disrespectful parents should be removed from WhatsApp groups and others expressing concern around who would determine what could be classed as unreasonable or disrespectful. TM reiterated that any issues should be raised with the school directly in order for them to be addressed.

Several class reps recommended two WhatsApp groups per class (either as separate groups or set up under a WhatsApp community). This allows school and PTA messages and class reminders to be separated from social messages and means it is easier for parents to find.

It was agreed that a small working group be established by the PTA to be more prescriptive about what the WhatsApp groups are for and defining the responsibilities of the class reps. For example, to what extent they should repeat information sent out by the school, or if this discourages parents from directly reading school correspondence resulting in messages getting lost in translation.

It was agreed that the school office will re-attempt to establish a working group focused on how the school communicates with parents (given information is currently received via multiple sources including the weekly school newsletter, emails, class dojo and the school calendar on the website).

**Close of meeting 21.30**

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - 7:30pm**