

Friends of Rettendon School
Minutes of meeting on Monday 14th January 2019, 7.30pm
Venue: Rettendon Primary School

Attendees:

Karen Ballantyne
Amanda Barlow
Jane Lovett
Louise Rowlands
Nathalie van Lagen
Michelle Ride
Sarah Sloper
Karen Thurston
Kate Moss
Rhys Ranson
Karen Seymour
Tracy Cunningham
Suzanne Ward

Apologies:

Sharon Marsh
Jill Langton
Gemma Kemp
Shannon Abbott
Debbie Little
Catherine Salsbury
Francesca Meecham
Katy Jarrett
Lian Simmons
Helen Hall

Updates from Recent Events:

Entrepreneurial Day

Class 4 made the largest profit - £200

SS advised that arrangements have been made for part of the money to be spent on a Viking/Anglo Saxon drama day in the near future.

Other class totals:

£58.95 - Class 5

£51.25 - Class 3

£28.50 - Class 1

£9.60 - Class 2

We discussed buying items for this event earlier in the year (at current sale prices) however we agreed that, though it would save money, it would take away much of the decision making process from the children.

SS suggested an alternative approach for the children to learn about profit by way of 'growing a £'

Movie Night

Profit made from donations for movie, popcorn and drink - £362.71

Christmas Party

In 2017 & 2018 funds were raised via the Giving Tree/Gift Stalls. In 2018 however, we increased our profit by offering refreshments (donated by Jane Lovett) and with Mrs Langton donating all face-painting we raised £378.84

Canvas bags

Profit raised so far - £285 with some still left to sell at other events.

KS also advised that we received £25 in donations from the 'Meet the Head' coffee morning.

Monies spent during this period:

£25 on Christmas Crackers

£700 on coach travel for the end of term cinema trip

£20 on Smyths voucher for the Giving Tree prize

Planned/proposed future fundraising events / projects

Movie Night

The school council are keen for there to be a movie night once a month.

The next movie night is agreed for 8th February . We discussed whether we think the children enjoy it so much because they like to watch a film or because they like chatting with their friends. We talked about the challenges of keeping all ages engaged and decided to show The Greatest Showman, sing-a-long version with possible break half way through including some Just Dance activity.

SS asked if we could link a movie night to a school sleepover for classes 2 & 3 in the second part of the Spring Term?

- Sleepover would be held inside the school building, have teacher led activities on rotation eg. Watching the movie, making pizzas, cooking pizzas, toasting marshmallows etc. SS asked if FRS would consider helping at such an event and the response was positive.

A small fee could be charge in order to raise funds for the school and the experience for the children will assist in preparing them for residential stays in future years.

Class 4 & 5 Sleepover would be a camp-out on the school field using borrowed tents from Mrs Adams scout group, again with activities on rotation. To take place during the first part of the Summer Term.

Class 1 would not be expected to stay overnight at the school however an experience for them would be set up to finish by 7pm.

Each of these activities are expected to take place on a Friday night.

Mothers/Fathers Day Gift Stall

We agreed to set up a stall on-site, during the afternoon of Friday 29th March to sell Mothers Day gifts.

Letters are to be sent to the parents/carers on 12th February to advise of the event and to request money for their gifts to be sent into school via sealed envelope, or via bank transfer by 28th February so we can order the gifts by 3rd March

Children taking part will be given envelopes containing their donation on the day of the activity so that they can choose their gift and make the transaction.

SS will advise where we can set the stall up. SW, KS, NL and LR available to set up and man the stall.

Fathers Day stall to be set up on Friday 14th June. More info in due course.

Science Museum

Mrs Waterhouse kindly donated £5000 to the school, specifically for a science project. We discussed a school trip to the Science Museum in London, an event to which Mrs Waterhouse will be invited.

SS will check the risk assessment on trips to London with Essex.gov and look into possible dates.

We agreed that it should be linked into the curriculum and possibly launch a period of science projects. We also agreed that, should a trip to London not be possible we will look into alternatives, either a different science venue or an organisation who can bring the science fun to our school.

Library

SS and Mrs Meecham have been auditing the library. They agree that they would like to replace all of the out-of-date books, buying new ones instead of loaning them. Each subject leader has been asked to focus on non-fiction books initially and to create a wish list. The list will be published to FRS for consideration.

KT suggested that the list is published to all parents in case some of the books can be donated to the school. KS advised that FRS have already put by £3000 towards purchasing library books.

Sports Day

We discussed how the Sports Day is usually run with team games in the morning and traditional races in the afternoon.

SS suggested that we run the sports event in the morning, leading into lunchtime where we can invite the parents to bring a picnic and use the afternoon for fun things e.g. inflatables and other activities.

We agreed, apart from the inflatables that we would not want to do any of the stalls we use for the Summer Show as the events are likely to be held within a few weeks of each other.

The FRS gazebos will be used as shelter for the children and set up first thing in the morning.

It was suggested that FRS buy tabards or coloured sashes for the team events, rather than the parents having to supply a t-shirt.

Another opportunity to raise fund would be to sell pastries and tea/coffee during the morning. JL happy to take the lead, organising the breakfast.

We would like parent helpers on a rota throughout the event so that all can enjoy spending time with their children.

JL also offered to speak to a contact re. inflatable hire.

Summer Show

This year's event will take place on Saturday 13th July. The first committee meeting with the Cricket Club and RHS will take place on 29th January and KB, KS and MR plan to represent FRS.

We discussed the dynamics of village show and talked about last years successes and challenges.

We agreed to charge a pitch fee of £15 to external stall holders, £40 for catering pitches which should be taken prior to the event.

... We will review the FRS stalls but as a starting point, we are happy to use the stalls we have and each consider ways to enhance the show and keep it fresh and exciting.

AB suggested we have a 'decorate a biscuit' stall.

We would like some interesting inflatables such as a 'fun run' or disco dome'

Suggestions for Challenger Troupe or Zorbing were discussed.

We agreed to look into Arena events:

- TC to check if the Jujitsu team are happy to attend
- AB to look into ferret racing
- RR to check out a birds of prey option
- KT suggested we erect a large limbo stand for a 'Throw the Bale of Hay' competition - £1 per entry, see who can throw the bale the highest – all members thought this was a great idea.

We also agreed that we should advertise for visitors to bring their own picnic blankets and camping chairs to the event.

We will ask Becky Swift if she is happy to donate hay bales for seating around the band/bar area, also for the arena game.

Year 6 Leavers

We would like to provide the Year 6 leavers with a gift from FRS such as a hoodie/keepsake.

As well as keeping the leavers assembly, at which the children from lower classes say a very special goodbye to their friends, SS suggested we host a party just for Year 6 at the school. The children can make a fabulous entrance into school, we can organise a leavers cake etc.

AOB

Royal Tiger Restaurant

TC suggested we arrange a fundraising night at the Royal Tiger for parents/friends/anyone to attend. Suggested date Friday 29th March – TC to contact the restaurant and advise.

Wreath Making

JL and LR suggested that we run a wreath making class in the approach to Christmas – LR knows a florist who can coordinate it, JL offered the use of her Creepy Crawlies venue.

Christmas Shopping Night

JL also kindly offered the use of Creepy Crawlies for a Christmas Shopping event

Coffee Morning/Afternoon

We will look into the possibility of running the next coffee afternoon with an event in conjunction with the school council.

DONM

Monday 11th Feb - venue TBC