

ST MARY AND ST JOHN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION
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Minutes of the Parent-Teacher Association Meeting
Monday 22nd June 2020, 7.30pm

Location: St Mary and St John Primary School, Meadow Lane

Staff/Committee/Governor/Attendees: Liz Burton, Jane Godby, Ant Larcombe, Kelly Jones, Emma Woo, Sarah Franklin.

Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was chaired by Kelly Jones.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ACTIONS CLOSED AT THIS MEETING:

ONGOING ACTIONS FROM EARLIER MEETINGS:

Class Reps – The PTA is investigating using a class rep system to help with communication and inclusion in PTA events. **Action – Emma Woo to write up a job description**

Beth Gibson, the school's SENCo, detailed some ways in which the PTA could support the school's work with students who have Special Educational Needs. The books that are currently available for students with Dyslexia date from when the school was Isis Middle School and so are very out of date. The PTA agreed to fund some new books. The PTA will also fund the purchase of specially adapted garden tools so that some SEN pupils can help with refurbishing the garden area outside the new library. **Action – Beth Gibson to put together a quote for costs**

ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISING

Photo books will be created for Year 6 as a memento of their time at the school

Under normal circumstances, PTA money would have been spent on ensuring that disadvantaged pupils could have taken part in the Year 6 residential trip. As the trip couldn't take place this year, the meeting discussed how this money could still be used to help these pupils. It was decided that by September the school may have a clearer idea of what might be needed.

The school would like to refurbish the courtyard outside the library to make it an inviting place for the children to use. **Action – Liz Burton to get quotes for the work.**

UPDATE FROM HEADTEACHER AND GOVERNORS

UPDATE FROM HEADTEACHER

The last few months have been an exceptionally challenging time, with constant waiting for updates on Government guidelines, which change very quickly. We are fortunate that we have a large building with plenty of outdoor space. This has made it easier to implement social-distancing guidelines. Throughout this time the staff have been asked to work extremely hard and have done so. We have stripped back classrooms to make them easier to keep clean as well as using outdoor spaces whenever possible. The staff and teachers have been superb throughout this difficult time and their hard work and dedication have made it possible for us to be open for those children who need us as well as supporting those at home. We have had a high attendance level amongst those for whom the school has been open and this has increased gradually over the period. The children have also been amazing. They have adapted well and played inclusively within their 'bubbles'.

The plan to get all children back in school for at least part of the last month of the year is extremely complex. It had taken a lot of planning and had to be approved by the Governors before it was implemented. If this plan continues for the whole 4 weeks it will have been the longest stable period we have had as a school since March.

UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNORS

Sarah Franklin was present to represent the Governors.

The Governors would ordinarily attend the Parent/Carer – Teacher evenings at school as an opportunity to gather the opinions of Parents/Carers and Children on how the school is performing. As this hasn't been possible this year due to Covid-19, the Governors have sent out a questionnaire to gather information on the school community's experience of lockdown and home learning. They are hoping for a good response in order to help them with understanding how the school performed over this period as well as what could have been done better.

OPEN FORUM

COVID-19 TESTING FOR STAFF

Parents have requested transparency concerning occasions when teachers or staff need to be tested for Covid-19 due to displaying symptoms of the virus. The school have informed parents via email when a member of staff attached to their child's 'bubble' has needed to stay at home and be tested. These tests have, on the whole, been taken quickly and results have returned quickly. On the understanding that it is possible to receive a false negative to a test, the school will now also confirm in the email that when a member of staff returns to school they are also not displaying Covid-19 symptoms.

DIVERSITY IN SCHOOL

A parent emailed the PTA to ask about the school's response to how we ensure diversity, particularly in regards to the current BLM protests and the awareness these are bringing to the subject. Sam Coleman has ensured that during the next academic year each year group will read at least one book featuring a BAME character. Liz Burton confirmed that this is a subject the school is always working on and that feedback from parents on this subject is always welcome.

PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER

As far as the school knows, we will be open to students in September. It has been difficult to forward plan during this period but, unless things change dramatically over the summer, we will be open as usual. Of course, these are uncertain times and,

should the situation change, the school is prepared to make new plans to ensure the safety and continuing education of the children

THANKS TO SCHOOL STAFF

The PTA would like to thank the staff at the school for their hard work and dedication over the last few months. We are grateful that they have now managed to open the school to Years 2-5 on a part-time basis, particularly as they were under no obligation to do so.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next PTA meeting will be the AGM and will be held on Monday 14th September 2020, 7:30pm in the KS1 Hall.

Please see below and/or speak to a committee member if you would like to consider joining the committee. Named roles have specific duties while other members contribute according to their interests and availability.

All Welcome.

GENERAL PTA INFORMATION

The PTA Committee welcomes comments and suggestions. Please contact any of us via the school offices, by email (maryandjohnpta@gmail.com) or in the playground.

2019-2020 Committee members: Anthony Larcombe (Chair), Emma Woo (Secretary), Kelly Jones (Treasurer), Clare Nixon, Rachel Buchanan, Lisa Baressi, Camille Hallo, Olivia Thompson.

Anyone interested in joining the committee is invited to make themselves known to a current committee member. Elections are held once a year at the AGM, but committee members may be co-opted throughout the year. (The PTA committee usually meets a couple of times a year, in addition to the regular PTA meetings, held on the second Monday of each term.)

