

**ST MARY AND ST JOHN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION**  
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**Minutes of the Parent-Teacher Association Meeting**  
**Monday 14th September 2020, 6.30pm**

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

**Staff/Committee/Governor/Attendees:** Liz Burton, Ant Larcombe, Kelly Jones, Emma Woo, Jo Acty.

**Welcome and Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Sarah Franklin.

The meeting was chaired by Ant Larcombe.

**ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**ACTIONS CLOSED AT THIS MEETING:**

The PTA were approached by Beth Gibson, the school's SENCo, for help buying resources for the school's work with students with Special Educational Needs. Funds were made available for her to be able to update the school's collection of books suitable for those students who have dyslexia. **Closed**

Class Reps – The PTA is investigating using a class rep system to help with communication and inclusion in PTA events. Due to the current situation this is to be put on hold until such a time as it becomes possible again. **Closed**

Our thanks go to **Jo Acty** for her hard work in producing the Year 6 photobook. It was a lovely memento for the Year 6s, whose final year at primary school was not as they had expected.

**ONGOING ACTIONS FROM EARLIER MEETINGS:**

The school had planned to refurbish the library courtyard but would now like the PTA to focus on raising money for the refurbishment of the 'nest' area in the main playground. **Action – Liz Burton to get quotes for the work.**

**ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISING**

Our thanks go to **Jo Acty** for her hard work in producing the Year 6 photobook. It was a lovely memento for the Year 6s, whose final year at primary school was not as they had expected.

It is still not possible to hold our regular Friday tea-stalls and pop up coffee mornings as parents are asked not to come onto school grounds.

Likewise, the new Government guidelines stipulate that members of different households should not meet up in numbers greater than 6. This means that many of the creative ideas under discussion for replacing the Winter Fair will no longer be viable. There is a possibility that we may be able to hold a larger event in the late Spring or early Summer to replace the Winter Fair. This, or course, depends on the Covid-19 situation and what the current guidelines are.

**UPDATE FROM HEADTEACHER AND GOVERNORS**

**UPDATE FROM HEADTEACHER**

It has been wonderful to have the children back in school and have the normal noise levels back. Not being able to gather together for a full school assembly is difficult, but each year group now has their own assembly and we are finding creative ways to keep a sense of community. The children are not able to eat their lunch in the hall together and so are eating in their classrooms as well as outside whenever possible. As is to be expected, some children are settling back into school life easily, and some are struggling both with their behaviour and academically. The staff are working hard to ease everyone back into a secure routine. There have been some concerns expressed over what will happen when the usual (non-Covid) winter illnesses lead to staff absences. It is very important that we take care of staff well-being to minimise this disruption and

maintain a happy healthy working environment. To this end, all staff will have a 'flu vaccination in December along with all children whose parents consent. This has been an incredibly challenging time and the school has done very well.

## UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNORS

There were no Governors available to report to the meeting.

## OPEN FORUM

## COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS

As parents (with the exception of year 1) are asked not to come onto school grounds, there has been some discussion over how best to communicate with class teachers. The school asks that parents either email the main office account, call the office to request a call back from the teacher or speak to the teacher at the school gate.

## ONLINE LEARNING PLANS

The school is working on the assumption that schools are likely to stay open, even in the event of another lockdown. However, the school will look into options for online learning in order to be prepared.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 6:30pm in the Staff Room. Due to government guidelines a small group of teachers, staff and PTA Committee members will attend the meeting. Please do ask a member of the committee to raise any issue on your behalf or email the committee at [maryandjohnpta@gmail.com](mailto:maryandjohnpta@gmail.com) to voice any questions or concerns.

*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.*

## GENERAL PTA INFORMATION

**The PTA Committee welcomes comments and suggestions. Please contact any of us via the school offices or by email ([maryandjohnpta@gmail.com](mailto:maryandjohnpta@gmail.com)).**

**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 or Wednesday, alternately, of each term.)