



OAKFIELDS PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10th November 2016

Present:

- Laura Ciftci - Headmistress
- Andrew Taplin – PTA Chair
- Sara East
- Guleen Nahr
- Harinder Paul
- Lisa-Marie Assenheim
- Biliana Bellamy
- Arlene Small
- Helen Ward
- Lisa Mackenton

Amanda Tragen

- Vicki Rochford
- Jennie Browning-Adams
- Marsha Edinburgh
- Saman Sandhu

1.) Andrew opened the meeting and thanked all for attending and giving their time to the PTA. New families were welcomed and introductions made.

2.) Andrew briefly detailed the minutes of the last PTA meeting.

3.) **Funding requests**

Andrew addressed the issue of funding requests. The matter of funding was discussed in the previous PTA meeting. Following this meeting Andrew has compiled a proposal which outlines how funding requests from the PTA may be considered. This was presented in today's meeting for consideration.

All members present agreed with the fact that PTA funds are to be used for the benefit of the children attending Oakfields school, and that these funds should not be used for activities or resources that the PTA considers to be the responsibility of the school to provide.

The matter of exactly *how* requests of funding were to be considered and decided upon was discussed. The proposal outlined that requests be considered differently based on the *amount* that had been asked for.

Following this discussion, it was decided that:

- a.) Requests for PTA funding of £1000 or less will be put to a PTA vote. This will be communicated via the messaging service 'Whatsapp' in order to facilitate recording for future reference. A time frame of three days was considered sufficient to enable all PTA members to respond to any such funding request.
- b.) Requests for PTA funding for any amount over £1000 would need to be discussed and considered at a PTA meeting preceding a vote. The decision for a funding request in this situation will be made on the same day (following the vote), at the end of the meeting. Should any Year Group Representative be unable to attend a meeting where a request for over £1000 is to be considered, they must send a nominated 'deputy' in their place.
- c.) In respect of requests for PTA funding of over £1000 from the school:
It is asked that the chair of the PTA, Andrew Taplin, be notified of any such request at least seven days before the next PTA meeting takes place.

4.) Communication

It was suggested that the next school newsletter include a section detailing names and roles of all Parent Representatives so that all parents are aware of key contacts for their child's class. Mrs Ciftci suggested that Parent Representatives are also proactive in their communications at the beginning of a new school year in making themselves and their roles known to the other parents of their allocated Year Group or Class. It was acknowledged that 'Whatsapp' is an effective way of ensuring that this happens – and that all parents are responsible for including new families in these communications.

Lisa Marie Assenheim suggested the creation of an Oakfields Montessori Facebook page as a means of PTA and parent communication.

5.) Financial Literacy Initiative

Harinder Paul introduced an initiative known as 'Money Savvy Generation', which is a programme created to teach children to become financially literate. This initiative would be planned and delivered in school by the Oakfields staff, and supplemented by discussions and activities at home between the children and their families.

Each child would have their own Piggy Bank, which is divided into four sections entitled: *Save, Spend, Donate, Invest*.

The money boxes themselves retail at £25 each, but Harinder has been able to negotiate the price down to £11.

The benefits of the initiative were discussed and were identified as follows:

- To teach the children about the value of money in a visual and tangible way.
- To encourage children to make important decisions about budgeting ie how to distribute money and where to spend it.
- Maths – improve numeracy skills when calculating the distribution/allocation of money.
- The need to plan for the future and goal setting.
- The importance of teaching children to be charitable and to think of ways to help others.
- To teach children delayed gratification in today's 'have it now' world.

The PTA discussed the initiative at length. All agreed that this was a positive and innovative idea which would be beneficial to children's holistic development and financial literacy.

Most parents expressed that this was something they would certainly consider involving their children in at home, but not at school:

- Not all parents give their children an allowance, and based upon family preferences, this could potentially place children and families under pressure in respect of the amount that children had in their piggy bank.
- Even at the reduced price, the cost of providing each child with a piggy bank was in excess of £1000. The PTA could not justify the funding for the initiative, given that the majority present at the meeting would not necessarily want to take part in the scheme for the above reasons.

Further discussion indicated that parents were in favour of the concept of teaching our children to be financially literate – particularly in light of the benefits listed above. Suggestions were made that children could create their own four sectioned **class piggy banks** to which they (in turn) could contribute small amounts of money and work together with the support of their teachers to make important decisions about its allocation.

6.) Any Other Business

School Disco

Arlene thanked the PTA for its support and thanked all who have volunteered to help on the evening of the disco. The PTA perused a copy of the letter to be sent to parents detailing timings and drop off and collection procedures. Arlene shared the details of the new system that would ensure efficient registration of the children upon their arrival at the school on the evening of the disco. She confirmed that refreshments, decorations and entertainment were all arranged.

Christmas Bazaar

Amanda Tragan thanked everybody for their support and requested more raffle prizes. She advised that would be sent home with the children.

Arrangements were finalised for the storage of bazaar items/donations. It was agreed that the bazaar will take place in the music room after breakfast club, and that it will be made available as soon as is reasonably possible to enable the PTA to set up for the day.

Kindergarten and the Christmas Bazaar

The organisers of the bazaar advised that it could be overwhelming for the young children in kindergarten and that it would be more appropriate for the children to have Santa visit them at their own Christmas Party and receive a book as a gift.

Gurleen requested that the PTA fund the cost for a Santa or entertainer for this party, which takes place on the 15th December. It was also requested that the PTA fund the gift of a book for each kindergarten child. It was agreed that this would be possible. Gurleen will look into this and share quotes via Whatsapp. The amount will be considered through this communication.

Christmas Decorations

Andrew Taplin and Mrs Ciftci advised that the date for decorating the school for the festive period will be Sunday 4th December. Mrs Fisher has offered her help with to decorate the large Christmas Tree. Volunteers were requested, and it was agreed that a Whatsapp communication will be sent out closer to the time.

Christmas Puddings

Sara East advised that the deadline for ordering an Oakfields Christmas pudding was 25th November 2016. She will give all order forms to Year Group Representatives to distribute to any families wishing to purchase a pudding.

Arrangements for distributing the puddings need to be finalised. Sara said that she will look into using the library on Friday afternoons as a base from which to do this.

Summer Ball

Lisa-Marie Assenheim has kindly obtained details of the royal Opera House Rehearsal Studios in Purfleet as a potential venue for the Summer Ball. A ticket price will be £50.00 per person. The school could sell tickets at £65.00 in keeping with last year and be able to raise funds for the PTA. A suitable date will be discussed. A request was made for early considerations of unique raffle/auction prizes.

7.) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 19th January 2017.