

Friends of St Joseph's Meeting

26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

2.45pm

**Present:**

Sam Jones  
Julie Walker  
Sharon Barnes  
Harriet Williams  
Nicola Bettney  
Charles Bettney

**Apologies**

Lucy Dole  
Claire Jones

**Discussion**

1. Our first year was a success last year and we were able to recruit a few new members by the end of the school year. We would still like to see more volunteers across all classes so we will continue to share our meeting dates.
2. We aren't currently fundraising for anything specific but will continue to fundraise to boost school funds for all pupils to benefit.
3. Summer fete:
  - a. Exceeded expectations. Around £2000 was raised and lots of things learnt for next year. **Check final figure.**
  - b. Excellent feedback from the outside stall holders who commented how lovely the school was and how polite the pupils were. All have asked to be invited to future events.
  - c. Agreed that we would hold another summer fete this academic year. If the event was brought forward, likely to get more outside stall holders and hopefully better weather to hold event outside. **Propose to hold summer fete end of June 2023 – Date TBC from school calendar.**
  - d. Consider a Christmas fete for December 2024.
4. Discos:
  - a. A discussion was held regarding discos and whether these should continue to take place during the school day or move to an after-school event.
  - b. In relation to after school discos, members in attendance discussed the following:
    - i. After school clubs children attend outside of school – parents wouldn't miss these clubs to bring their children back to school due to monetary costs.
    - ii. For those children who catch the bus to school, many do this as they do not have transportation meaning they would be unable to attend.
    - iii. Parents may still be working and would therefore need to take time off work to attend discos.
    - iv. Volunteers would need to be DBS checked to school required level.
    - v. Ratios of adults: children would need to be adhered to meaning school staff would need to stay to support this. It was felt it is unfair to expect staff to work outside of their school hours. We already appreciate the hard work and dedication to their roles and to add to this would be unfair.

- vi. To have after school events there maybe implications on policies and insurance.
  - c. In relation to discos held during school hours, members in attendance discussed the following:
    - i. School is willing to hold discos during the school time in order to reward children from their hard work – this was appreciated.
    - ii. Staff attend the disco with their class which is practical for them to do so.
    - iii. As there are school staff present, and FOSJ aren't left alone with children, negates the need for DBS checks.
  - d. It was agreed that school discos will continue to be held during school hours and FOSJ members will support with a tuck shop during discos.
  - e. It was also discussed to try and make the hall as dark as possible for the full effect of a disco so black out sheets will be considered.
5. Autumn Term events:
- a. All agreed that the panto bags last year were successful and we would like to repeat this. Panto trip is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. **As this is the week of the Christmas concerts, FOSJ volunteers will create bags on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December.**
  - b. A cinema afternoon for pupils to be held on the last week of term. **Date TBC from school calendar.** FOSJ to provide popcorn and sweets to be sold for this.
  - c. A non-school uniform day with £1 donation to raise funds for both events. FOSJ money to be used to purchase anything outside of donation amount. **Date TBC from school calendar.**
6. Spring Term events (to be discussed in more detail next term)
- a. Valentine's disco. **Date TBC from school calendar.**
  - b. Easter Egg Hunt. **Date TBC from school calendar.**
7. Summer Term events (to be discussed in more detail at future meetings)
- a. Sponsored event.
  - b. Summer Fete. **Date TBC from school calendar.**
8. Further discussions:
- a. Refreshments at events – discussed the practicality of this at Christmas concerts – not all take place in school (some at Church), members of FOSJ can't enter kitchen area so would need staff. It was agreed that this would be too difficult on concert days as staff are supporting with preparations for event. Could coffee mornings be trialled? **To be discussed further next term.**
  - b. Not all volunteers will be required at all events so these shall be shared out based on members availability.
  - c. Dragon bags – this is a free fundraising scheme that helps schools raise funds through textile recycling. This works like cash for clothes where schools request a drop off bin (internal or external)/ bags which is emptied and the funds are given to school. Very minimal work for the school. Sam has used this scheme in school previously and was an easy way to make money. **Julie commented that this also links to Eco Club work.** Further information can be found here: <https://www.dragonbags.co.uk/>
  - d. Christmas cards <https://www.school-fundraising.co.uk/christmas-cards-for-schools/>

we are too late for this year but this will need to be considered and discussed during Summer Term 2024. If we wish to proceed, this will need to be organised for September 2024.

**Actions:**

1. Check the final figure raised from the fete.
2. Mrs Stack/ Mrs Mort to check school calendar and add the following events:
  - a. Non-school uniform day – November 2023
  - b. Cinema afternoon – W/C 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023
  - c. FOSJ Spring Meeting – Early January 2024
  - d. Valentines Disco – ?? W/C 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (this is the week before half term although valentines is the week after half term) ??
  - e. Easter Egg Hunt – W/C 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024
  - f. Summer fete – June 2024
3. Letter for parents regarding non-school uniform day.
4. Julie to further explore dragon bags and let FOSJ know if further support is needed  
<https://www.dragonbags.co.uk/>

Date of next meeting:

Creation of panto bags – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Spring Meeting – TBC