

FRIENDS OF MILL HILL

MEETING 11 JULY 2013

In Attendance:

Jenna Ford (JF)
Natasha O'Connor (NO)
Kelly Prior (KP)
Farzana Khan (FK)

Apologies:

Tracie Jackson
Angela Mihill

Wooden Benches

JF has done some research on the internet for wooden benches to buy from the money raised by the summer fayre and found a deal for 6 benches for £360. We will need the benches cemented in, and over the summer will look further into anchors for this purpose. These benches are heavy duty and are made specifically for schools, pubs, social clubs etc.

It was agreed by everyone that this was the best deal available to us and we should seek permission of purchase these.

Tennis Nets

Staff have confirmed that the school does have 1 tennis net. JF has undertaken research and found a 3 mtr Slazenger net on the internet reduced from £80 to £40. However, it was agreed that this will be something we will speak about further and if agreed will purchase at a later date.

Rug for Year R

KP mentioned that Mrs Morgan has approached her informally regarding purchase of a new rug for the year R class room. It was agreed that maybe this would be something the class will try and raise funds for, further discussions will be welcome if the request arises again.

Halloween

- Subject to agreement by Diane Lawry and/or Peter Leonard, The Friends agreed that on Thursday 24 October, the children can have non uniform day, dress up in Halloween costumes and pay £1 – we shall have to find a way to make sure we get the £1 from each child and any suggestions are welcome.
- Straight after school on the same day, we shall hold a Halloween event and JF suggested a small fayre in the hall, with games and activities such as apple bobbing, face painting (see if Hannah is happy to do this), cakes, possibly Dominos. FK approached about doing some Indian taster plates for a £1 or so. Ideas welcome for next meeting.

Date to be confirmed with Mrs Lawry and/or Mr Leonard.

Shopping Evening

Discussion was held as to arranging a shopping evening on Friday 15 November with local businesses and craft companies coming along to sell items (perfect for Xmas). Agreed charge £5 a table and ask for a donation on entry, min 50p.

All to think of local businesses who may wish to attend over the summer holiday. Some companies may need to be booked well in advance (i.e. Chocoholics). Maybe draw up a form – companies may need to provide public liability insurance proof.

Christmas

- Christmas Disco – date to be confirmed but suggestion of 6 December, 5 – 7 pm. Funkey Faces are able to offer a disco and party games for the 2 hours for £80. KP suggested tickets should be sold for £1.50 to include entrance, hot dog and drink. Tickets to be presented on arrival. If tickets are not purchased in advance, 50p entry fee applies.
- Christmas Fayre – date to be confirmed, but suggestion Saturday 14 December. Further arrangements will follow in the next term.
- Present buying event – date to be confirmed. There was a lengthy discussion as to how this is arranged. Majority of the children spoken to enjoyed buying a secret present for a family member/s and it was agreed we definitely want to do it again, it would be a shame not to. However, it is not practical to have it straight from school as the children's parents will be there also and so defeats the point of a present buying event. NO suggested doing it on a day in the hall and rather than the teachers doing all the work (KP advising the teachers found it difficult to fit this in together with the busy curriculum at Christmastime), we could ask for parent volunteers and work shifts; we would just need the children brought to the hall and this could be done by students/teaching assistants. Plan of action to be run past Diane Lawry and/or Peter Leonard for approval.

Rag Bag

KP advising AM has said that she is finding it difficult sending the bags of clothes to Rag Bag. JF mentioned Cash for Clothes down near Matalan, Waterloo. 50p a kilo. We can take the clothes there as and when. KP and JF happy to take clothes when necessary, as will NO.

It was agreed that parents need to be made more aware of the scheme, possibly in each newsletter there could be a standard paragraph each week to remind parents to donate all their old clothes/rag to the school. NO suggesting sending bags out to parents, possibly with a flyer (Cash for Clothes hand out flyers so could give us a bulk) and ask the parents to fill the bag (no time limit). KP suggesting putting the bags on reception for parents to take if needs be. NO said that sometimes parents forget and so it may be better idea to send a sack home, and then have spares on reception. This will be looked into further.

Penelope the Penny Pinching Puppy

NO has researched the internet and came across this easy way to raise funds. It is small amounts but every penny counts!

The basis of the idea is as follows:

Penelope is a dog who likes to collect 1 and 2 p's, but because she is a dog, she can't go out to work and get paid. So she has asked us to help her.

At the start of the September term, a letter is sent out with the children introducing Penelope and her sad situation ☹.

Penelope loves children and would like the help of everyone in Mill Hill Primary School (teachers included!) to help her do her favourite thing, collecting 1ps and 2ps. So she asks if we would all mind bringing in just a handful of pennies and 2ps during the last week of term, and place them in the wonderful money pot in their class room (money pots to be made from milk bottles and decorated by each class). On the last day of term, each class's money will be counted and the class who has raised the most funds gets to keep Penelope in their room for the next half* term!! And then the process begins again the next half* term.

This may only raise a small amount of money for the school, but it's fun, simple, easy, inexpensive, and it gets the children involved: it can be turned into a learning lesson by counting how much money they have or are putting in their pots, and the children at Mill Hill thrive on winning the learning dimension animals so hopefully will have the same enthusiasm about Penelope.

*half termly or termly, which would be better?

Everyone agreed it was a good idea and so it will be put to Diane Lawry/Peter Leonard.

Money Collection Box

This has now been placed on reception with a chain to enable people to pop loose change into it.

Letters to Parents in September 2013

NO suggested sending a letter out in the first few weeks of the new school year to introduce the Friends and to invite people to come along to meetings as and when they are able, to find us in the playground if they can't attend meetings, to throw about ideas and suggestions, etc.

Next meeting arranged for:

Friday 20 September 2013