



St. Mary's School Association AGM Minutes

Tuesday 2nd November at 7.30pm

Attendees

Liz Keenaghan – Clark (Chair), Krsna Denham - Vice Chair, Simone Legg – Secretary , Alison Cheshire - Vice Secretary, Phil Quelch – Treasurer, Mrs Osborne - Head Teacher, Owen Lewis - Chair of Governors, Sophie Clarke – Committee Member, Sarah Morris – Grants Officer, Sarah Jones - Committee Member, Amy Goss - Committee Member, Sarah Heal – Committee Member

Adopt the new Constitution This was agreed in order that we can conduct online and hybrid meetings

Welcome by Headteacher & Chair of Governors

Mrs Osborne thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication especially in these difficult times Owen Lewis echoed these comments and was very appreciative of the funds raised considering the restrictions and challenges

Previous minutes agreed

Chairs Report

Thank you all for attending this evening. This is our final AGM as Chair and Co-Chair and our second using Microsoft Teams – although some of us at least are meeting in person this year, so that is an advance on last year!

It has been another strange, and mixed, year, and whilst there is no doubt that Covid-19 has severely hampered our fundraising I have been delighted with how we have taken on the challenges and increased our fundraising from last year. This year we raised £15,228; including the swimming grant, £19,488. This is comparable to a 'normal' year without a Summer Fair pre Covid and a 50% increase on the unrestricted funds we raised last year. Given that we were unable to hold either a Christmas

or Summer Fair^{rye}, the school was closed to all but key worker children for almost a term, and that we were working under significant restrictions on in person meetings and events for much of the rest of the rest of the year, we have much to be proud of.

Despite all the challenges we managed to connect the children to Santa via video calls, run our Christmas raffle, bring back Treat Fridays with a new Covid friendly format, arranged various non-uniform events and a bubbled Film Night for the children and held a variety of socially distanced trails that were enjoyed by the children and adults alike. Our online second-hand uniform sales are also continuing to grow and provide a service that I know is much appreciated by parents. Finally, we want to give a special mention to our Readathon, which was an enormous hit and was ably supported by Mrs Zimet's video introduction.

Covid is, unfortunately, here to stay and there is still much uncertainty about what events we will be able to hold, and how, going forward. We want to thank all the Committee members for the energy they have brought, and continue to bring, to dealing with this uncertainty and continuously shifting landscape. We particularly want to thank Simone, Alison, Phil, Sophie, Sarah and Gemma who have attended virtual (and when allowed, in person) meetings regularly, including through the summer holiday, to enable us to hold our postponed Family Fun Afternoon at the start of the autumn term. And finally we want to thank our small, but committed, band of wider committee members and volunteers who regularly step up to help with events such as the Fun Afternoon and the Secret Rooms: we wouldn't be able to do it without you.

We have seen an upswing in activity since the start of term and now have a busy (if forever changing) forward calendar of events for both children and parents. We'd like to especially thank Mrs Osborne and all the school staff that are taking on additional activities to support the School Association and to allow events like Treat Friday and the Christmas raffle to continue. Mrs Osborne in particular has continued to tackle the ongoing Covid restrictions with gusto and has been immensely positive and supportive of the School Association. And we could not function without the wonderful support we get from the school office staff. With such backing I'm confident that we'll have a successful year again this year, which will allow us to continue supporting the school.

I do want to celebrate all the support we have been able to give the school over this year; with the biggest items being the new playground equipment, which was especially welcome given the current focus on outdoor play and post Covid recovery. In a similar vein, the funding provided to Y1 for equipment will assist with their curriculum shift, with this now being viewed, post Covid disruption, as a more transitional year between the Early Years and KS1. We have also funded subscriptions to This Week Junior and the new Sir Linkalot spelling platform to enhance the curriculum delivery in these areas, as well as continuing our normal funding of the software licences. On the more 'fun' side of things, we funded Christmas Pantomime workshops in bubbles and we were delighted that we could contribute to the school trips that were able to go ahead in the summer term. We should all feel proud of how this, and the other funding we have provided, has enriched the children's time at school and their school environment.

Finally, we would like to end by particularly thanking Simone, Alison and Phil. They have worked tirelessly over the past year on behalf of the School Association. Myself, Krsna and Simone are stepping down at this AGM, although we will remain in post on a transitional, handover basis, until the end of December. Up to now, no-one has stood forward to replace me as Chair, or to fill the very large gaps that Krsna and Simone will leave in the Committee. We are hopeful that this will change in the next few weeks, as it is unlikely that the School Association will be able to continue unless those roles are filled.

Liz Keenaghan-Clark and Krsna Denham
November 2021

Liz went on to reiterate thanks to Mrs Osborne and all the staffing and office team for their support. Treat Friday's are now bringing in more than double the money previously.

The Family Fun Afternoon went really well and feedback showed people felt this was a good opportunity for new parents to meet others and a great introduction to the school.

Liz thanked Sarah Jones for taking on the second hand uniform, the sales of which have greatly increased.

Santa's Sleigh raised £900 last year and Sarah Heal has kindly agreed to run this again this year.

Treasurer's Report

The meeting voted to accept the accounts with no comments.

We have ended the year up on last year and have come through this period very well. The 'Break the Rules' day was very lucrative in particular.

Mrs Osborne enquired about the level of reserves the School Association needs. It is necessary to have a certain level especially with the uncertainty of what can be raised going forward and being unable to hold a Summer or Xmas Fayre. It was agreed that the reserves could be run down to £5k but no lower to comply with Charity Commission guidelines.

Election of officers

The following roles have been reappointed following the nomination process:-

Treasurer: Phil Quelch

Secretary: Alison Cheshire

Sarah Morris joins as the new Grants Officer and will work alongside the existing members of Emily Street, Sarah Heal, Sophie Clarke and Gemma Keen, Sarah Jones, Amy Goss, Heidi Bolwell, Sally Kindell and Julie Ann Turnham.

At present there are no Chair candidates. Natalie Cooper was elected as a new committee member.

Liz, Krsna and Simone agreed to stay on the committee, albeit not in named roles and they do not foresee themselves being particularly active members post Christmas.

Forthcoming Events

Remainder of term's Treat Fridays

Bag2School – 3rd November

Selling glow sticks and glasses – 5th November

Call My Quaff - 19th November

Break the Rules Day – 26th November replacing the non uniform /bring a bottle day

Xmas Decoration day - 3rd December

Santa's Sleigh – 4th December

Xmas walking Fayre/trail including stalls - 4th December with Santa's Grotto at the end. TBC
Xmas Secret Room – 17th December

Xmas Raffle - Alison to order the raffle tickets
Possible movie night – this term.

Alison is in touch with the Xmas Tree Place and hopes to provide a tree for the school. This would be needed by 3rd December for the decoration day.

Simon Burkett has confirmed there is space on the school site for the recycling textile bank which the school will get money from

Future pushes agreed of: Amazon Smile, Easy Fundraising, Supermarket Vouchers (coffee morning suggestion to raise uptake), My Childs Art purchases.

Agreed events for next year are the Pop Up Cinema and the Scholastic Book Fayre. Suggestion of a spa event also.

It was raised by many that some parents are not aware of what the School Association do.
A poster/flyer explaining what we do in terms of fundraising events and what that money buys is in hand. The suggestion of using Year 6 to assist the School Association was mentioned. Hopefully if school life continues to be 'normal' members of the School Association will be able to attend new parent meetings to introduce ourselves. Mrs Osborne was asked to remind parents what the School Association does and what would be missed if a new Chair and members are not forthcoming.