**Boldmere PTA meeting**

**Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 8pm (remote)**

**Attendees:** Simon Clifford, Alex Housden, Kate Pierart, Charlotte Clifford, Emma Lewis, Claire Butlin, Sue Emmerton, Sam Kenny, Charley Hafiz, Andy Merckel

**Apologies:** Sarah Clarke, Liz Southgate, Matt Sadler, Sophie Worthington, Bronwyn Farrell

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| Welcome from Chair and updates from the last meeting | The Chair started by welcoming attendees and discussing the events held since the last meeting.  **Fireworks**  These had been well received by both the school and the community. The tickets were almost sold out possibly because several alternative local firework events did not take place. The food team of 5/6 volunteers worked solidly throughout the evening and for next year it would be useful to have another team and food station if there are enough volunteers.  Lessons to take forward: it took longer than expected to unpack, organise and clean up the food. The food clean-up operation was onerous but aside from this the set up and take down operation ran smoothly before and after the event on Friday night and on Saturday morning. Resources could be considered – the hot chocolate ran out early. However, the set up rota on the wall worked well as did the electric ticketing system.  **Elfridge’s Christmas**  Also went well. Claire reported that product prices have risen to £1.25 in general instead of £1 which decreased profits but felt £2.50 was still a fair price. The Wrap and Natter was enjoyed by all.  Lessons to take forward: there was an issue of some of the younger children being unsure who they were buying gifts for which slowed choosing up.  **Christmas fair**  Another good event. Year 6 games went well. The craft table was busy. The grotto location worked well and there was positive feedback for the grotto set up.  Lessons to take forward: the event was over-catered as it was hard to estimate demand. A free ticket system or clicker on the door could be considered (clicker would give numbers for future years). Vegetarian food signage could be improved. An outside event might mean the hot food sold better. Annabel stated some parents missed the outside part and perhaps it should be all inside/all outside (this depends on weather). Claire suggested that the lucky bags needed to be rethought as although it was very popular, the break even point was £95 which is high. Lucky boxes (which parents supply) or wrapped gifts may be better. The chocolate tombola needed to be better monitored for cheating! | Simon to investigate if booking form can be amended or optional free text box added for parents’ comments. |
| Update on finances | Alex gave a verbal update on the figures which are not 100% accurate due to changing back accounts from HSBC to Co-op and running total in Stripe. The HSBC bank account should be fully closed in February 2023.  To date since September 2022, the PTA has raised ~£9000. ~£6,903 is from fireworks which made £2,000 more than in 2021.  The Christmas fair raised around £3000. This is about £500 less than in 2021.  Christmas cards raised £380, School lottery £40  Used uniform is not included in the figures and is ~ £317.  Operational expenses are ~£260. This includes used uniform cupboard improvements, AGM refreshments and lottery licences.  School donations so far have been around £2,095. This includes £928 on chocolate selection boxes at Christmas, TT rockstars badges £360, Christmas decorations £1250, and Toscana strings £985.  The two bank accounts total around £18,000, a healthy balance. When the bank account is fully moved across to the Cooperative, the trustees will be able to keep a running total more easily.  The Chair suggested that in future, a rough bank balance should be added to funding request polls on FB to allow for greater transparency and more informed decision making. | Regular payees to email the PTA email details with their bank details so these can be set up on the new bank system by Alex. |
| Mother’s Day Elfridges - 17 March 2023 | Claire has started buying. She has bought ~175 gifts out of the usual total of ~300.  Hoping to have another Wrap and Natter on Friday 10 March.  Bookings will go live on Thursday 16 February and close Tuesday 14 March. Claire to recruit Elves as usual. | Sam Kenny to confirm training room free Friday 10 March to wrap. |
| Potential Eid/ Ramadan events (March 2023) | Charley is hoping to do something to make the end of Ramadan, which starts on 22 March 2023 and lasts for one month.  She suggested a community iftar (breaking of feast) at school on the appropriate day. At present this is around 22 April 2023. Ticket prices to be decided. These generally range from £5 to £25 depending on venue.  The iftar would be open to everyone, Muslim and non-Muslim and donations could be sought from local businesses and restaurants, who may also bring their own equipment, negating the need for a kitchen.  Sam Kenny stated that as long as Mr Rollason was given enough notice she had no objections to this.  Charley also suggested a food bank drive along the lines of the Harvest Festival donations as an important part of Ramadan is charitable donations. | Sam Kenny and Charley Hafiz to liaise over logistics for iftar.  Charley to seek volunteers amongst Muslim parents in school community. |
| Year 2 hoodies | Charlotte and Emma stated that local business Sportology would offer either a jumper/ zip hoodie or normal hoodie in 6 different colours with the option to personalise.  Communications regarding this will be going out before Easter.  The PTA are not looking to make a profit on these jumpers due to the cost of living increases. |  |
| Used uniform/ World Book Day costume (WBD) sale | Used uniform was not discussed.  The whole school is to dress up for WBD.  Charlotte to put out requests for volunteers for WBD collection, sorting and sale. £2 per outfit suggested. Sale to take place on 14 & 15 February.  There was debate about where it would be held. Front of school would be busiest although weather dependent. The quiet corner is an option although would need a loudspeaker/ music to draw attention to it. | Charlotte to put together a rota of volunteers for WBD costume sale. |
| Stock holding / tuck shop | Some stock has already expired. | Roll over to next meeting. |
| King Charles III coronation | Coronation is on Monday 8 May 2023. School event will be on Friday 5 May due to school closure on Monday.  Sam suggested the school were considering either a big lunch street party or a big help out. The latter would be a community project with local old people’s homes.  The school are hoping to do something on Friday 5 May, either a picnic (possibly with parents), or maybe an afternoon tea.  My child’s art could be approached to produce a personalised souvenir with coronation decorations. |  |
| Upcoming events for spring & summer (discos/ summer fair) | **Discos** 25/26 May – run by Simon/ Claire with Kate helping.  A parent had emailed in regarding waste and the entertainment (PJ the DJ). Emma had investigated greener options but these are much more expensive. Logistics/ food hygiene are also an issue if items are not pre-packaged.  PJ went down well with juniors. Possibly an alternative could be investigated for infants or PJ could be asked to be both slightly quieter and provide less structure. Several children found the noise too much.  This was the only negative comment received so it was felt that the previous format generally worked well and would be used again with possible tweaks.  **Summer Fair** – possible Committee of a few volunteers to organise. |  |
| AOB | Fireworks for November 2023. It was agreed that despite the price increase Jubilee fireworks would be booked again. It was noted that 3 November, the booked date, fell in half term and alternative dates were proposed – 5 November, 6 November and 10 November.  There was debate about the price increase but it was decided that paying the additional price was worth it. By comparison, several years ago another company quoted ~£1200/1300 more. | To agree alternative date with fireworks – poll created on FB to gauge opinion. |