**Minutes from the “Virtual” PTA meeting Thursday 24/9/2020 20.30pm**

ATTENDEES: C Holmes, D Ward, M Haywood, J Mawtus, J Elliott, C Vasey, J Robinson.

1. UPDATES: (From Mrs Elliott)

* Staff are pleased with the positive support shown from parents.
* The toilets at the back of the hall have been refurbished.
* There have been new carpets place in year 4, 5 & 6 and the intervention room.
* New tables & chairs in KS2 classrooms.

1. FINANCIAL UPDATE: (From M Heywood)

* There is £1,352 in the bank
* £779 to spend at present.
* Last year’s finances are being audited at present.

1. UPDATE RE THE HSBC ACCOUNT: (C Holmes)

* We are to withdraw all the money out of the account and transfer it to the new PTA bank account.
* We will then try to close the account.

1. DISCUSSION ON FINANCES: (General)

* It was pointed out that we lost approximately £2000 by not being able to hold the summer fair this year & fundraising is going to be very difficult with social distancing, so we should be looking at what we need to spend money on & what we can cut back on
* £800 coach money for school trips – these will not be taking place under current Government guidelines – this will be reviewed periodically.
* - The £100 that was paid by PTA for the bookcase that was not

purchased - J Elliott to review where the funds are.

1. PTA ASKED IF A NEW MUSIC SYSTEM & PARKING SIGNS ARE STILL REQUIRED.

* The Music system has been temporarily repaired, but C Holmes to look in to Music Grants for a new one.
* The parking signs are still required. J Mawtus pointed out that these can be customised for around £100 & thought it would be nice to incorporate children’s own designs? via an Art competition. It was thought that this was a nice idea & it was agreed that this is the first thing that PTA will fund.

1. SCHOOL LOTTERY UPDATE: C Holmes

* This is currently ongoing, but has had a slow uptake post Covid 19.
* 24 (of 50) numbers sold so far, it will be drawn as soon as it’s full & a new one started.

1. LOTTERY GRANT – ETHAN’S MEMORIAL PLAY AREAS.

* 25K National lottery grant application in progress.
* Currently on hold as the National lottery are helping causes related to Covid 19.
* C Holmes approached a company called “Sovereign” who design, supply and install equipment but also offer help with finding Grants in the local area to fund it.
* It was confirmed with Ethan’s mum that he enjoyed playing with trains – so a railway theme would be nice.
* It was confirmed by J Elliott that a risk assessment would be put in place for a rep visit the school to inspect the playgrounds, as long as it was outside.
* C Holmes passed the companies details on to J Elliott, who will arrange a school site visit.

1. OTHER GRANTS:

* Tesco - We missed the closure, but we were told that Tesco ask people to review their play equipment (such as climbing frames), could this be a way to subsidise Ethan’s play area? - D Ward to speak to Tesco Local Staff, as she knows them.
* AVIVA – We need a clear idea to apply for this, PTA to discuss this further & get the application underway.
* ASDA “Getting schools back on track” – C Holmes informed J Elliott that a grant was available from Asda, but we had to decide if we want to spend it on School uniform/PE kit (for struggling family’s), Stationary, or Breakfast/after school club (for struggling family’s) – as this has to be stipulated on the application. J Elliot said that she would discuss this at the Governor’s meeting next week & get back to us. Nb Closing date is the 15th November.

1. IT GRANTS DESPERATELY NEEDED:

* J Elliott stated that the next school funding project would be for IT equipment. Both laptops and ipads.
* - C Holmes said that she would look in to IT Grants straight away.

1. ADDING THE “FRIENDS OF MACKIE HILL SCHOOL” FACEBOOK LINK & A LINK TO THE PTA WEBSITE ON TO THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

* C Holmes asked if these links could be added to the school website. J Elliott to review.

1. VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR: J Mawtus.

* Ideas such as “How many presents in the stocking”, “Cute pet competition” (Photos), “Virtual Bake off” we will have to have a different take on it this year, as people are unlikely to be let in to school
* – PTA to brainstorm ideas and submit them to school.
* J Elliott confirmed that the physical Christmas fair is unlikely to take place.

1. SOCIALLY DISTANCED SANTA’S GROTTO?

* It was established that a physical Santa’s grotto would not be possible this year.
* So a virtual Santa’s visit via zoom (1 per class) was the way to go.
* All kids can write a letter to Santa & Santa can (show/mention) a few of the kids /letters in each class.
* ACTION: S Preston (Governor) to ask volunteer if he will dress up as Santa & conduct the virtual meetings for the kids.
* (Pending) - Still to decide if tickets will be sold via the website or not.
* Presents can be quarantined (as the Smarty tubes will be).

1. TEA TOWELS

* These were identified as being time sensitive – Agreed that we would like to do them.
* C Holmes to order packs.

1. HALLOWEEN DISCO

* This has been CANCELLED due to covid 19.
* J Elliott suggested having a “Non-Uniform day” to replace the funds lost from cancelling the disco.

1. PTA SELLING BAKED GOODS, OUTSIDE IN THE PLAYGROUND/ONLINE – VIA WEBSITE ETC.

* There were social distancing concerns re. this.
* It was decided that it wasn’t possible under present government guidelines, but this will be reviewed periodically.

1. UPDATE RE. THE CLOTHES BIN IN THE CARPARK

* Cash for clothes will take this over (Emptying it regularly), paying 50p per KG.
* C Holmes informed the team that “Happy school bags” have started doing mass collections again & pay 60p/kilo.
* It was decided that we would give parents a couple of weeks’ notice, arrange a collection day with the company & PTA could do a socially distanced clothes collection on the field (under a gazebo)
* C Holmes to arrange date with company.

1. POCKET PANTO

* Pocket panto was cancelled this year.
* It was discussed that PTA could fund a “Virtual Pantomime”
* C Holmes to research companies such as evalongproductions.co.uk

1. SWEET TREAT FRIDAY

* M Haywood informed the team that there were several leftover chocolate oranges and some chocolate bars (since lockdown we have been unable to run it)
* C Vasey suggested that the leftover stock goes out with the foodbank donations.

1. DISCUSS OTHER MONEY MAKING IDEAS SUCH AS VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE.

* It was decided that parents would meet to discuss this in smaller groups & the best ideas be presented back to staff.

1. PARENTKIND “BIG PTA VIRTUAL QUIZ”.

* It was decided that parents would meet to discuss this in smaller groups & the best ideas be presented back to staff.

1. CONFIRM IF WE STILL WANT TO REGISTER AS A CHARITY?

* Yes.

1. PTA WISH BOX IN THE STAFF ROOM

* It was decided that a “PTA Wishbox” would be put in the staffroom (For items under £100)
* C Holmes to create form & send to Julie in the Office. Requests will be shared with Mrs Elliott before a purchase.

1. 2021 DRAGON BOAT RACE SAT 10TH JULY 2021 (discussed quickly)

- C Holmes informed members that the cost was £350 ? down from £600 last year

- Each boat can have 16 rowers & 1 drummer = 17 people.

- Each person has £20.59 COST & the rest of their sponsorship is PROFIT for pta.

- ask a company to sponsor us to cover the entry fee.

- Entrants aim to obtain a minimum of £50 each which will raise £850, hopefully some people will raise more.

- They suggest that we use the “VIRGIN MONEY GIVING” page. - Sounds like a good idea – but a bit uncertain at present with Covid.

J Elliott closed the meeting, by thanking everyone for attending.