

Minutes from AAA PST/PTA meeting the 2nd March 2020

Present: Naomi T, Jonathan, Ruth, Anette, Annie, Abigail, Rachel, Marta, John, Mrs Ford, Mrs Trim, Carly, Mrs Sharma, Jody.

Apologies: Mandy, Steve.

1. Easter 2020 Event planning update

- There is some stock left from the Christmas Event that we might be able to reuse, the Easter committee were tasked to check the PTA cupboard and our cupboard at WASPs before putting the order in.
- Annie will be in charge of the Easter Café and is planning for tea, coffee, squash and hot cross buns for sale.
- Daffodils are needed for decorations, parents to be asked for donations.
- Tablecloths are needed, parents to be asked for donations and/or loans.
- Rachel will be in charge of planning the Easter Craft session, other parents to help on the day.
- Easter Bonnet Parade planned by the school; hats to be decorated at home by the children, loud-speakers and music to be borrowed from WASPs.
- Egg Hunt; we have the plastic eggs from previous years. Carly is in charge of chasing donations for prizes to the children (e.g., Cadbury Cream Eggs or similar).
- Easter poster and flyers are needed; Rachel has volunteered to create templates which can be copied at school. Anette and Steve have agreed to help Rachel with distribution of the flyers at the Ensleigh estate.
- Information about the Easter Bake-Off competition is to be included in the school newsletter (Mrs Trim). Children and Parents to bake at home and enter the competition for a small donation. Annie is sourcing prizes and Mrs Trim will ask Rev Philip and some of the School Governors if they want to volunteer as judges. Creations to be exhibited and winners for each Key Stage to be declared during the Easter event.

2. Equipment for the school/development of the grounds

A follow-on discussion from the previous meeting was conducted, with focus on how best to utilise the potential help from the local builders/developers before those companies move on from Ensleigh and the importance of acting fast. Mrs Trim agreed to raise the issue again with Mrs Badger and Mrs Halls to see what can be done before the new Head Teacher has been appointed and come back to Jonathan; he can then approach the builders/developers again if appropriate.

On request from the school, the previously agreed PTA/PST-sponsored playground painting project has been put on hold until the overall school grounds layout has been decided. Mrs Trim also advised that it might be better to save up for a proper “road work quality” paint

for the project even if that involves a higher initial cost; this is based on experiences from WASPs where the use of cheaper paints had led to the need for frequent repainting and a an outcome not as good as expected.

3. Access to swimming opportunities

A lively discussion was held on how best to secure future access to swimming for AAA children after the separation of the WASPs and AAA entities. Could Kingswood be an alternative (they have a lovely indoor pool that they appear to rent out to other organisations)? Is it worth checking if we still can have access to WASPs' pool for a smaller fee? Or should we start a big sponsorship project with the intention of getting our own pool for the school like the one at WASPs; this is something that requires a lot of work, time and money but potentially also could generate an income.

4. Advertising of the school

Several parents have expressed the wish for better advertising of AAA to make sure prospective parents are aware of what the school has to offer and get a positive impression. It is recognised that even though there are many families with children moving into the area, a significant amount appear to opt for other schools.

Potential options could be articles/adverts in the Bath Magazine, Bath Parents and/or the Local Look Magazine for the area. Also car stickers, other items with the school logo on and the importance of a fresh-looking and relevant web-site were mentioned.

This topic will need to be discussed in more detail at future meetings, but to get us started Jody agreed to check with the Bath Magazine about dates, themes and costs for advertising there.

It is thought that some of the parents in the school have previous mentioned that they have contacts at the Local Look Magazine (potentially Harry's mum) and Mrs Trim agreed to check this in the hope that the school might be able to negotiate a free or discounted advert there.

5. Lease of a minibus for AAA

Money from the AAA PTA funds is provided yearly to WASPs for the use of their minibus. It has been suggested on several occasions by AAA parents that it might be better to lease our own minibus for AAA use. Sponsorship could be searched from local companies in exchange for display of their logo on the bus. Kate did a rough cost calculation last year on behalf of the PTS and provided background material to AAA leadership but has had no response.

The way forward could be decided during the meeting, but it was agreed that the PTA should keep raising the issue with the school as the cost for use of the WASPs' minibus and other vehicles has taken a significant part of the PTA budget from previous years. It was also recognised that teachers have, on occasions, privately paid some of the costs for

transporting the children to extra-curricular activities. This was in addition to money raised directly from the parents, so it is important that a long-term solution can be found.

6. Donations

The school has asked for, if possible, donations of some spare clothes and Wellington boots for outdoor activities. These are to be used by children in connection with the outdoor learning programme. Message to be sent out to the parents via the PTA and donations can be left with Mrs Ford or the school office.

The school is also setting up a collection of dressing-up costumes for the children to use; donations can be handed directly to the school or to Jody or Marta from the PTA. Information to be sent out to parents via the PTA channels and the school newsletter.

Marta and Jody are also in the process of setting up a second-hand school uniform service on behalf of the PTA. Information to be sent out via PTA channels and the school newsletter.

Jonathan raised an idea about the potential collection of music instruments and books for the school via local donation sites, etc., logistics to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Mrs Sharma has agreed to run a tennis themed after-school club for the AAA children, but equipment is needed. Can PTA donations and/or local sponsors help with this? Jenny and Naomi K agreed to take this forward in cooperation with Mrs Sharma, starting with approaching the local tennis clubs to see if they have any spare equipment to donate.

7. Wellington racks

The children's Wellington boots are currently stored outdoors when not used to save space and keep the floors clean. This is not an optimal solution as the boots become both unpleasant to use when wet/cold and risk to be destroyed when left outdoors for prolonged periods.

It was agreed that PTA shall provide material and labour for putting up some kind of simple Wellington-boot racks indoors for each year group and that the school shall direct where the racks are to be placed and advise whether drilling in the walls is allowed for this purpose.

8. Next meeting

Monday in Easter week for the persons involved in the Easter event preparation. Next meeting for the whole PTS/PTA is to be decided when the new Head Teacher has been appointed.

/Anette (parent secretary for the PTS/PTA)