

The Firs Lower School PTA
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Firs Lower School PTA AGM Minutes – 11 October 2021

Attendees

Danine Maskill	Sue A'Court	Jo Freeman	Angela Abbott
Vicki McQueen	Adam Campbell	Kerry Mercer	Vicki Davies
Helen Pearson	Sima Vaghela	Surjay Vaghela	Jessica Ardila
Amanda Stokes	Danielle Penniston	Daisy Forman	Satbir Bassra
Adam Goodyear	Emily Cheney	Vicky Stallan	Carla Beazley
Nicola Polloway	Frankie Orrell	Helen Kalozois	Ann-Marie Drinkwater
Gemma Stat	Simone Ruzario	Laura Bartlett-Rawlings	Sandra Cartwright

Apologies

Tanya Moffett Rebecca Ellis

Vision

We aim to run an inclusive PTA to enhance our children's experience of The Firs Lower School through events, experiences and funding for equipment.

Minutes

1. Matters Arising from last AGM

No matters arising from last year's AGM

2. Welcome from PTA Chair

Danine welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an introduction to new parents of what the PTA does, both to raise funds and how we spend them.

Danine confirmed that three members of the current committee would be standing down as their children are now in Year 4. Danine, Jo Freeman & Angela Abbott will now step down, but remain involved in the PTA for the rest of the school year to hand on knowledge and support.

Danine encouraged those present to get involved with the PTA at whatever level suited them best and spoke of the benefits of friendship and community that she had experienced and also the huge difference the work of the PTA made to the school and our pupils.

3. Treasurer's Report

Angela confirmed that we had had a tough 2 years for fundraising, but had used existing funds to continue to support the school. We made a profit of £3754 in 2019/20 and a loss of £1494 in 2020/21 as we were unable to run many events, but still spent money on the school. We still have over £13k in the bank, so are still very much solvent!

Our most profitable events include the bi-annual Ball and the annual Fun Run and Christmas Craft afternoons, events both thoroughly enjoyed by the children and parents. We hope to get back to all

of these as normal this year, as most haven't been able to happen for 2 years.

Spend for the year has included our regular commitments, including Y4 swimming, leavers presents, externally provided professional pantomime and Christmas presents for all the children, WOW Days, which total approximately £5,800. We have also been really pleased to be able to support the school this year in contributions to the library, the pirate ship and RWI books.

Angela confirmed that the PTA continues to be committed to consider all requests for funding carefully; and are keen to support the school in any way possible to enhance the children's learning experience whilst complementing the school curriculum and making their time at The Firs even more enjoyable!

Angela also noted that a key and easy way for all to get involved, is to sign up to Amazon Smile and choose The Firs PTA as your nominated charity – this costs you nothing, but means we receive quarterly contributions from Amazon.

4. Head's Report

Mr Campbell thanked the committee and echoed the importance of the work of the PTA and its contribution to the school. He explained how the events run throughout the year really added to the sense of community at the school, and to the enjoyment the children took from being a pupil at The Firs.

The money raised has provided vital equipment for the school to move with technology and continue to improve its offer, which would otherwise be unaffordable with increasingly stretched budgets. These are vital funds, not just a nice-to-have.

He finished by saying that the most important thing that the PTA brought to the school was the social element and the fun – and the memories we create for the children. Things like the Easter Bunny turning up on the last day of term and a library system that made the library 'feel like a real one' were particular highlights.

5. Election of Officers

Jo briefly ran through the roles of the Committee members and asked those present to feel free to get involved. She explained that there were core roles such as the Chair that probably needed some prior involvement, while roles like Events Officers were perfect for newcomers.

Nominations and seconds were made and the following committee agreed:

Chair – Helen Pearson

Secretary – Vicki Davies

Treasurer – Laura Bartlett-Rawlings

Events Secretary – Carla Beazley

Events Officer – Vicki McQueen

Events Officer – Jessica Ardila

Events Officer – Frankie Orrell

Events Officer – Danielle Penniston

Events Officer – Vicky Stallan

Events Officer – Ann-Marie Drinkwater

This was a fabulous response from new parents, for which we are extremely grateful.

6. AOB

The most important part of the PTA is our army of volunteers – the Fun Run alone took more than 50 volunteers to make happen. Danine advised that we would be looking for volunteers for each of the

individual events throughout the year, and especially the 2022 Ball, and that offers of help for any of these should please make themselves known to the committee.

Jo also made a plea for all to think about any contributions people could make to the Ball's Raffle, Auction, or Match Funding and asked all those present to check with their companies what charity donations might be available for us to apply for.

7. Next Meeting

The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th November at 7.00pm in The Hollows (Kids Club) – all are invited and very welcome. Please join 'The Firs Lower School PTA' closed Facebook group for event updates.