

Parents, Teachers & Friends of Eldersfield Lawn Church of England School



Minutes of PTFA Meeting on Thursday, 2nd February 2023, 6:30pm held at The Hunters Inn.

Attendees

Michelle Starr (MS), Loyda Winning (LW), Ellen Challoner (ECh), Louise Herbert (LH), Suzi Baimbridge (SB), Jackie Ostocke (JO), Jo-Anna Challens (JC), Edward Rushforth (ER), Tansy Goodman (TG), Katie Rowberry (KR), Emma Carolan (EC).

1. Apologies

Julia Evetts (JE), Claire Kinahan (CK), Amy Kinahan (AK), Jackie Lewis (JL).

2. Finance Update

SB stated that the finances for the PTFA are in a good position and distributed the Statement of Accounts for Term 1 (attached). A good amount was taken in at the Christmas Fayre and she thanked JO for her hard work with the raffle. There is around £9,500 in the bank account at present and the new textile bin, tuck shops, and contributions from the monthly Hunters Inn quiz will keep bringing in further monies year-round.

3. Disco

MS stated that the bookings for the Valentine's disco close on Friday, 10th of February. A DJ has been found and he has all of the necessary vetting and was reasonably priced. KR and EC advised he could start setting up after lunch time. MS to ask how he would like to be paid so that SB can arrange. Each child will receive a stamp for the food; school has one. Food will be served first and the disco will start afterwards. LW cooking the sausages for the disco. Drinks-wise there will be fruit shoots and the children will be allowed to bring in their water bottles. MS will check in with parents of those children that have allergies. There are 7 helpers so far.

4. World Book Day

World Book Day is on the 2nd of March and EC and KR stated that the children would be asked to wear dressing gowns and slippers on the day over their PE kit (there is rugby on that day so it cannot be a fully non-uniform day).

MS advised that we are thinking of holding a pre-loved book sale. It was agreed that children would be asked to bring in a maximum of 5 books in very good condition per family and some money to purchase books and that proceeds would go to the school library to purchase a more diverse set of books.

5. Textile Bin

It was discussed that this has been a success so far. It has been emptied twice since being put in place and a total of £36.90 has been earned from it. Collection will be on a fortnightly basis.

Joint Chairs – Michelle Starr & Julia Evetts
Treasurer – Suzi Baimbridge
Secretary – Loyda Winning

C/O Eldersfield Lawn CofE Primary School, Corse Lawn, Gloucester, GL19 4NY
Tel: 01452 780309 eldersfieldptfa@yahoo.com

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6. Buddy Bench

EC explained that the junior governors had the idea of putting in a buddy bench in the school. A buddy bench is a place where a child that is upset or lonely can sit to show teachers and other pupils that they need a friend or 'buddy'.

The PTFA has donated £200 towards this bench and the junior governors will fundraise for the rest, starting with a non-uniform day shortly.

7. Second-Hand Uniform

It was discussed that a lot of parents might not know about the PTFA's second-hand uniform offer and that more advertising should be done about it on the school newsletter and/or Facebook. JO mans the second-hand uniform store and has agreed to do a termly post about this to inform new and existing parents.

8. Funding for families

SB stated that there may be a need for a hardship fund in order to help families that may be struggling with the cost of school trips, equipment, etc. EC advised that the school already has one in place and that all payments towards school trips are on a voluntary basis, however, it is important to note that if not enough parents pay towards a trip, it may be cancelled as the school's budget is limited and costs such as coaches are increasingly rising.

ECh gave the idea that, even if the school had the hardship fund towards the cost of trips, it might be useful to have parents donate equipment and clothing that may be needed for these trips, such as wellies, waterproofs, snow equipment, etc.

9. Diversity Books

KR told the meeting that the school is trying to give the children more diversity in the books that they hold in the school library and that they are looking to purchase these books but that they are quite expensive. MS said that the PTFA will contribute towards the cost. A wish list of these books will also be distributed in the next school newsletter as parents/children may already have these books at home or may be able to purchase them as a donation to the school.

10. Plans for 2023 including the Summer Event

The PTFA are planning a Summer Event to take place on a Saturday at the end of June. Suggestions are welcome with regards to a theme.

There will be celebrations in the school for the Coronation and a non-uniform day will be held following this.

Sports Day should take place sometime at the end of May and the PTFA will look into offering Strawberries and Pimm's for the parents.

EC stated that the teachers are looking to make use of the area where an old pond was behind Classes 3 and 4. This has been filled and it is very messy and overgrown at the moment. The plan is to turn it into something useful and enjoyable to the children such as a sensory garden. ECh said that her father could strim it (this has now been done as of the distribution of these Minutes) so that the area was fully visible.

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It was discussed that the junior governors would write to various local and national groups/celebrities to ask for sponsorship on this and help/ideas from parents and friends of the school would also be very welcome.

11. AOB

The meeting discussed who should be a member of the PTFA Facebook following some requests from people who did not seem to have a connection to the school, did not answer the eligibility questions, and/or are prospective parents whose children are not yet at Eldersfield Lawn. It was agreed that group membership would be kept solely to those parents whose children attend or have attended Eldersfield Lawn as this was the safest course of action.

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