**PTA Meeting, 13th November 2024**

**Present in Person:** Grace Heron, Sally Brannick, Elaine Crosbie, Sarah Deveney, Aideen O'Donnell, Claire McCreesh, Raymond Swan & Pauline Reid

**Present Online:** Susanna D'Ascenzi, Penny Power, Daniel Peacock, Liz Peral, Sinead Kirwan, Aodhnait Donnelly, Siobhan Kearney.

**Apologies:** Kelda Clermont, Kevin O'Dwyer & Joanne O'Grady

**Previous Minutes**: Minutes were read out: Proposed by Aideen O’Donnell, seconded by Sarah Deveney.

Minutes will now be available on the school website.

**Financial Update:**

Exact figures not currently available. Will have more accurate figures for next meeting.

Balance - € 8000 (Approximately based on previous minutes)

€250 was taken out of the disco money to pay for the printing of raffle tickets for Winter Raffle.

Susanna to invoice the school for gardening programme, the school will pay this and PTA will refund half. Sarah and Elaine are due to visit the bank this week to become signatories.

Further PTA Costs:

An outdoor shed is required to store and preserve the equipment used for gardening. **Approved.**

Claire suggested resources for PTA coffee mornings so that parents could take part in a craft whilst attending. **Approved**.

Kettle for Library: **Approved.**

Non-slip matting for around the greenhouse and outdoor classroom to ensure extra safety in wet conditions requested. **Action: Raymond to get quote for this.**

Requested by Raymond and Aideen: Maths resources for the new curriculum. **Action: PTA to consider and discuss for next meeting.**

High Vis Vests with school logo for public fundraisingneeded. Elaine has organised for these to be supplied and sponsored by Sprint Printing.

**Sensory Room:**

Suzanne Keane (teacher) contacted the PTA regarding raising funds to upgrade the equipment in the sensory room. A lot of equipment needs to be replaced. The initial quote supplied was €10-€15k which was a general quote. Raymond suggested we could state what our budget is and the company could offer a package for that budget. Corporate sponsorship a possible funding option. Raymond will provide a list of businesses that the school uses on a regular basis that we could potentially approach for corporate sponsorship. Possible funding ideas include – Park Run, Sponsored Run, Table Quiz, Go Fund Me page, Tesco Community Fund, Lotto.

**Actions:**

* **Grace Herron to contact James in Whizzy Internet to ask about Corporate Sponsorship.**
* **Raymond to provide more detailed cost breakdown for next meeting.**
* **Claire to liaise with Suzanne re fundraising**.

**Gardening:**

There have been four gardening sessions with the new format. Positive feedback from all involved. Kids were very enthusiastic and keen to get started. The programme is now taking a break for Winter and will restart in March. Some volunteers will be needed to help manage the garden during the winter months. Posters will be sent out closer to the time.

**Holiday Cards**

Sarah and Kevin approached classes yesterday and gave them the instructions and template. There was a lot of excitement amongst the children. The sample cards will be sent home with instructions on how to order. Each child will get one sample card. Packs of 10 cards will be €10 – printing cost is €5.50 the remainder is contributed to the PTA.

**Winter Raffle**

Poster needed to ask for volunteers to help sell raffle tickets on the Main Street in Gorey on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th December and 15th December in the shopping centre. To be sent out via Dojo. Still to be completed: Finish leaflet to send home with books of tickets, collect remaining tickets from printer, get invoice. Need volunteers to sell raffle tickets at winter concerts.

**Action:**

* **tickets to be distributed to students on Monday 18th. Pauline coordinating.**
* **Claire to create poster**

**Winter Concerts**

It was suggested the PTA could sell some old Winter Fair stock that was made by students in recent years after the Winter Concerts on the 17th and 18th December. Mince pies, hot chocolate, tea & coffee could also be offered. Raffle tickets will be sold at the concerts on both days. **Approved**

**WhatsApp Groups**

The Board of Management was concerned by some instances of inappropriate use of the class WhatsApp groups. BoM requested making groups read only. Concerns were raised by parents that the ability to discuss homework, arrange playdates etc would then be lost. As an alternative solution, Joanne created a code of conduct that parents could be asked to adhere to. Raymond will present this to the board for feedback.

**Bike Buddies**

Special classes are free. Other classes are quite expensive. It was suggested that this class could be offered to 6th class students as they would perhaps have more independence on the road. These classes could be funded by the PTA and the school.

**Action: Aideen to give exact costing at next meeting**

**AOB**

 **Calendar.**

Idea from parents to create a school calendar next year and sell as a fundraiser. The question of GDPR issues were raised if photos need to be edited etc by parent volunteers. Parents to be given an opt out option. **Approved**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 10th of December – 7pm