

Friends of St Benet's Meeting Wednesday 24th September, 2010

Attendees:

Damian Groark
Joanne Anderson
Graeme Page
Emma McNaught
Joanne Wollaston
Vicki Burrell
Angela Hanley
Daniel Thompson



Apologies:

Elaine Tones
Amanda Vaughan

1. Volunteer Support

It was identified that the FOSB group seemed to be dwindling in numbers. In order to sustain the good work and fund raising activities, Joanne Anderson suggested a recruitment drive. DG stated that the FOSB play a vital role in raising funds for the school and that this should be promoted further to parents. It was recognised that there could be a perception issue about the Friends of St Benet's group as a whole. It was noted however that there is support for some events – the school fair had over 70 volunteers on the day!

Action Point: All to canvass proactive people and to bring a friend to the next FOSB which would be held in the Cherry Tree pub on Thursday 14th October at 6.15pm. DG to give a short introduction and welcome to promote the work of the FOSB.

2. FOSB Activities

A discussion was held in relation to how we can encourage more parental support for the FOSB. The following ideas were suggested:

- **Newsletter** – JA stated that a regular FOSB newsletter was circulated in the past but it took time and effort to co-ordinate.
Action: DG - children to help design FOSB newsletter
- **Website** – there is a FOSB website which is promoted at every opportunity however it was recognised that this takes an effort for people to actually log on to it – newsletter can promote website.
- **Open Evening** – Emma McNaught suggested that we hold a parents open day to showcase the work of the FOSB and at the same time parents can visit classrooms whilst the children are learning.
- **Family Events** – This meeting was to discuss the arrangements for Mamma Mia. Mrs Hanley was present at the meeting to discuss the production. A long debate was held relating to the timescales of this production and the number of volunteers available to commit time to the rehearsals required for it. A decision was made not to hold the Mamma Mia production this year but to keep it in mind for a future event. The FOSB would like to thank Mrs Hanley, Elaine Tones, Suzanne and Peter for their commitment and support in offering to make this event happen.
Daniel also suggested that a football tournament may be a good event to get more dads involved with the FOSB. VB stated that the camping night would be welcomed by many parents which could be linked in with the BBQ in the summer term. A casino night was also discussed where parents and children could dress up as gangsters.

Action: Daniel is to investigate costs for casino night. For this term an X factor night was agreed.- see dates listed below.

Action: D Groark to promote the X Factor night.

- **Children** – pester power! Ask the children to take the message of the FOSB home to their parents and also involve the school council in making a shopping list of ideas as to more improvements/ activities which can be funded via the FOSB.

Action: DG to ask the children to make a FOSB newsletter (also see above) and flyers including pictures and costs of projects the FOSB has funded. The FOSB generated over £25,000 last year for school improvements and activities – a fantastic achievement!

3. Christmas Pantomime

Joanne Anderson asked if the FOSB were willing to fund the trip to the Customs Play House to see “Puss in Boots” between 1st - 15th December, 2010. Cost is £9.75 per child and school only ask for a £2 contribution from parents to cover travelling expenses. All agreed that this was a good event and the children really value this trip. Nursery/ reception children to have a separate “treat” in school.

Action: Emma McNaught to investigate nursery / reception Christmas treat. Last years’ event was very good in partnership with Eden Garden.

Action: D Groark to organise date for pantomime direct with A Hanon – 0191 4541234.

4. AOB

Joanne Anderson handed a copy of the FOSB accounts (for year ended 31st October 2009) around. She explained that production of these were delayed as the accountant that had agreed to verify the book keeping was no longer able to undertake the role. The accounts had however, been submitted to the Charity Commission within the 10 month deadline.

Action: Daniel agreed to enquire with a colleague as to whether she would be willing to undertake the role of independently verifying the books.

FOSB : Dates for the Diary:

- X Factor Night – Friday 26th November, 2010
- Family / Casino Night? – Saturday 26th March, 2011
- Camping & BBQ Night – Saturday 9th/10th July, 2011
- Summer Fair – Sunday 12th June, 2011

Date & Time of Next Meeting – as mentioned prior in minutes:

Cherry Tree pub on Thursday 14th October at 6.15pm