

MINUTES

PTA meeting: 28th September, 7.30pm at the Holy Goat



Chair: Alexander Woods

Attending: BH (Headteacher), TC (Treasurer), NS (Secretary; after item 4), Susanna Fabry-Crowe (events and designer); Louise Allen (events), Emma Spencer (events), SM, LS, VT, CY, BW, MW, VH, IP, PH, EK.

Items

1. **Welcome** and introductions from the Chair, particularly to the many new members.
2. **Purpose & objectives** of PTA Committee
3. The [minutes](#) from the previous AGM were accepted.
4. **Finance update:** the Treasurer provided a [summary](#) - excluding funds committed to existing commitments and £1,000 in reserves, available funds currently **£279.00**. The PTA has committed £17,995 for the KS2 outdoor classroom – the major output for last school year, in addition to the two climbing walls, and £270 to the Christmas grotto. The conservative fundraising forecast for 2026-27 would be **£11,000**, assuming no Silent Auction or “26 for 26” sponsorship event.
5. **Funding priority for 2026-27:** the meeting agreed in principle that the PTA should primarily raise funds for **outside provision for Early Years**. Ideas to rejuvenate include remodelling, planters, track for vehicles, playhouse replacement; costs in region of £23k, potentially part-funded by the school. The HT set out that BCS needed to attract more children to the school in the context of a falling birth rate not predicted to recover for nine years, whilst competing with well established, centrally located schools. Improving EY would benefit the whole school as student numbers generated more funding through the years.
6. **PTA target to raise £19k this year** – taking into account both fundraising events and other avenues too – last year, for example, the PTA raised £3k just by asking for help with Forest School. Grandparents who don't live locally may be very keen to help. Match-funding should be a very fruitful avenue, and approaching local businesses.

7. Calendar of events

Mix It Up day – Friday 16 October: last time raised £450. Option for facepainting at the entrance to be publicised. Works well having child volunteers keen to help, esp Year 6.

Action: SFC and LA to lead; big publicity push needed.

Bingo night – Fri 13 November: should be a community, fun event – with prizes. Good chance for a social event, putting tables together, pizzas and drinks. **Action:** AW to launch a PTA poll to decide whether to go ahead.

Christmas Fair – Fri 4 December: after school as it's getting dark has worked well the previous two years, (taking into account the timing is less ideal for working parents with tired children). A good chance to promote the school to prospective EY families. **Action:** Christmas Fair sub-committee to meet with LA gathering ideas, including bauble decorating for the school tree. AW to lead on raffle.

PTA Christmas grotto day – booked with photo booth, Santa, fun activities; further costs to be covered through ticket sales.

8. Outreach and comms: survey of parents to gather views on fundraising and on events. How we engaged with parents was critical: Facebook has limited success with outreach. Instagram works well with local businesses. The Chair keen to give people the opportunity to socialise with a monthly pub or café gathering; **action:** AW to select dates.

9. Next meetings – **action:** Christmas Fair sub-committee meeting before half term. Other business to be conducted by email/Whatsapp. Next PTA Committee meeting after October half term.

10. AOB: Uniform shop – established by the previous Chair, an invaluable improvement on previous sales out of plastic boxes, making around £40 a week. VT no longer able to open the uniform shop on Thursdays; although she could do Weds afternoons and SFC Friday mornings. Possibility of Year 6s assisting but will still need an adult. **Action:** PTA to publicised new opening hours.

