

Minutes: PTA meeting 4th November 2025

Attending: Annemarie Roberts (Chair), Mrs Hood, Sarah Pullen-Underhill (Deputy Chair), Susanna Fabry-Crowe (Design, events), Vanessa Tiltman, Thanasis Chondrozoumakis (Treasurer), Nicola Stanton (Secretary; in part/minutes), Alexander Woods, Kayleigh Martin, Louise Singleton, Passent Horan (events).



1. Actions from the last meeting

- Minutes from the last meeting were approved.
- Easyfundraising – **action:** NS to push again via comms channels and append to regular comms.
- Green lanyards useful; **action:** NS to schedule Safeguarding training according to AW availability.
- AW's comms piece aiming to ensure consistency across channels and scheduling – **action:** NS to recirculate and all to please feed back any comments.

2. Chair's update

- **Storage:** uniform shop complete, plus major shed sort out with mainly Christmas decorations, gazebo. Keys held in the office. A few indoor shelves in the school's cupboard. Excellent stock of games, prizes. No need to buy more; aim is to keep everything tidy. No expenses will be authorised for stock we already hold.
- **New freezer** for PTA use in the staffroom generously donated by BCS parents Marios Charalambous and Elyse Hodgess.
- **Temu:** the committee debated the ethics of ordering supplies from Temu given publicly documented evidence of human rights violations including forced labour and environmental concerns; how much due diligence the events committee should exercise checking the source of our stocks – such allegations are likely not unique to Temu (e.g. the same products are available on Amazon). It is extremely hard to stick to tight budgets when buying large volumes e.g. tablecloths, 400 party bags. **Action:** the committee agreed on a proportionate approach: to look at options to buy from other sites wherever possible, using sites such as Temu for mass purchases if no other options available.

3. Treasurer's update

TC reported that recent fundraising had brought in: Dragonboat race £234, Quiz night £419, Uniform sales in October £269.

In the bank: £9,311 including cash float, of which £6,120 has been committed (£5,100 for the climbing wall), leaving £3,186 available. £1,000 to be kept in reserve + uniform float.

4. Funding projects

a) KS2 Climbing wall: £652 needed to top up the fund for the climbing wall; the committee agreed to go ahead. **Action:** Mrs Hood to order – timing tbc; the wall is coming from Wales.

b) Minibus: 15 seater proposed to assist with school trips, sports matches, transporting children to Somerhill for swimming, ad hoc help for families. Soft benefits include mobile publicity for the school, plus reducing staff time spent borrowing minibuses from other

schools. Mr Ley, Business Manager, is investigating options, one of which is for the school to cover the monthly lease of £500, with PTA providing upfront payment of approx. £1,400, plus cost of wrapping the minibus. **Action:** Mr Ley to provide a one-pager with breakdown of costs, sponsorship options. Possible approval outwith the PTA meeting cycle.

c) Sensory panels: BH presented proposal for sensory panels on the corridor walls at school. Research shows how beneficial they are for supporting emotional regulation, stimulating sensory needs so the children are ready to learn. The committee supported in principle, noting that any panels should be high quality for the best impact. **Action:** BH to discuss with Mrs Billing (SENDSCO) to options and costs to present to the PTA for approval. AW to explore possible corporate sponsorship.

d) Anti-idling signs: LS noted the harm caused by idling cars in the car park and turning circle. **Action:** LS to explore options/costs for signage.

e) **Other options** for PTA funding in the next 9 months: more books for the **library**, concrete **table tennis** tables, outdoor **KS2 shelter**.

5. Christmas Fair coming up Fri 5th December. Sub-committee meetings underway; budget to be approved at the next meeting at 8pm on Thurs 13 November.

- **Volunteering** highest priority – **Action:** NS to initiate Microsoft Forms to gather initial interest. AR and others to come in for Christmas-themed celebration worship on Fri 8th November to encourage the children to get their parents involved. SPU reported staff are allocated to stalls.

- **Christmas jumpers** – crate in storage room with jumpers for children who don't have one.

- **Raffle** this year will be cash only: £200, £100, £75, £50 – total of £425 was approved by the committee. Tickets £1 each; must be cash sales for a cash raffle. Licence for raffle has come in. **Action:** KM to take on the raffle coordination, liaising with AR and SFC on design.

- **Comms:** **action:** NS to pull together all Christmas comms – school and PTA - to go out. NS, AW and SFC to save posts and artwork into Google drive. SPU, AW and NS to coordinate on scheduling comms.

6. Santa's grotto on 10th December –£5 a child; Year 6s can opt out. Santa is available. AR as the elf. Photographers returning - cost £250. Saplings for 88p in batches of 10s to grow a mini Christmas tree. Churros at Forest School. Banquet sheets in the hall for Christmas lunch; overall current costs for grotto/lunch at present £902 – aiming to bring down to £800. This is primarily a child-centred experience, although may be able to make up to £500 profit.

7. Uniform shop – plea from VT for volunteers to open the shop. **Action:** all to let VT know availability.

8. 2026: Disco in February; Colour Run in March. **Action:** BH to provide a date for the disco.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 8pm.

