



OLOL PTA MEETING

Thursday, 7th November 2024

Present:

Committee: Alex Athienitou (AA), Michelle Jeyes (MJ), Rezina Malike Moran (RMM), Raf Markowski (RM), Roberto Grammatica (RG), Ellie White (EW), Jessie Day (JD).

Donna Tooth (Y3), Mark Knowles (Y1), Jasraj Virdee (N), Lama Tadros (R&Y5), Claire Cox (R), Rachael Alexander (Y3), Aoibheann Foley (Y4&Y6), Patience Rusinga (Y2&Y5), Elizabeth Stokoe (N&Y2).

Apologies:

Nisha Virdee, Charlotte Richardson, Kathy Kali, Grainne Curran, Louise Ellis, Olivia Freund, Victoria Kelly.

1. Chairs' Welcome

AA welcomed all to OLOL PTA Meeting and stated that she was joined by MJ as co-Chair, Raf Markowski as our Treasurer, Rezina Moran as our Treasurer (soon stepping down) & Roberto Grammatica as our Shadow Treasurer. Also Jessie Day and Ellie White as our Co Secretaries. Both AA and MJ said they were delighted to see such a great turnout at the meeting.

2. Introductions

Everyone at the table introduced themselves, the year that they were reps for and the years they had children in. Committee members gave a brief outline of their role.

3. Wristband Prices For The Fayre

There was some discussion about whether we should put up the prices of wristbands but it was decided in the end to keep them the same; £5 for under 5s and £10 for over

5s, £7 for under 5s and £12 for over 5s on the day. Should try and find out how many people buy bands on the day and see if there's any scope for potentially putting the prices up of the wristbands that are bought

4. Christmas Fayre – Stall Allocation

AA outlined the stall allocation for each year group and it was noted that the allocation is the same for both the Christmas and Summer Fayres. Before we went through the separate allocations, it was discussed how we could better draw people to the private stalls in the Benedict Building – perhaps we put more signs up?

The idea of having a Google doc for each year group to put feedback and pointers/tips about how to run each stall was put forward and everyone agreed this was a great idea, especially for toys such as they toy stall, which are quite complicated to run. Would be great to take the learnings from the previous year/s to improve how the stalls are run and maximise the potential of each. Also pictures of how each stall should look – this would be particularly beneficial for the grotto for example.

- N – bouncy castle – it was noted that there is a need for two people to 'man' the bouncy castle, one to take money and another to do the timings. Younger children should be prioritised as it's one of the only things they can do on repeat with their wristband.

Peak time is 1pm to 3pm, there should be no more than 6 kids on the bouncy castle at one time. Need towels in case of rain, to ensure safety.

- R - teacups – there was lengthy discussion about whether the Chair O Planes ride should or shouldn't feature at the fayre after some problems at a recent local event. Everyone was in agreement that we should have the teacups ride instead at the Christmas fayre. There was also discussion about what the protocol would be should an emergency situation arise at an OLOL event. Do we need trained marshals, for example? It was noted that there are trained first aiders on site at OLOL events but should discuss with the school about whether we need to have something official in place ie, ensure we have medically trained personnel. The idea was put forward to have a St John Ambulance presence at OLOL events but this would cost money.
- Y1 – toys

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- It was agreed that since we changed the messaging about toys (no baby toys, no books, one bag each etc), that the toy stall has been much easier to run and far more successful.
 - It was noted, however, that there is an extremely short window from the toys being sorted in the Benedict building to being put out in the main hall, so things are getting mixed up again once they've already been sorted. Last year, Kathy labelled all the black bags with the different groups of toys, so it all transferred across properly. This feedback should be put in the google doc for future reference.
 - Pricing – a guide to pricing was discussed and it was agreed that one should be done and shared with Year 1 reps. (UPDATE: done).
 - It was noted that the Year 1 shoutout for volunteers should include people to help taking away the toys at the end of the fayre. Need to have people to take all the leftover toys that aren't wanted by charity to the tip.
- Y2 – go karts – it was noted that all children (over 5s) get 2 goes with wrist band, then have to pay £3 for one go thereafter. Discussion about whether under 5s should be able to have a go in the karts too but it's all dependent on each child's height and whether parents (and the supervisor) give permission.
 - Y3 – cakes and hot drinks
 - Cakes - it was raised by AA (who ran the cake stall last year) that there is a need for serving utensils for the cakes. Still need to confirm prices but probably £1 for a cupcake and small cake, £2 for a slice.
 - Hot drinks - also under discussion was whether we do hot chocolate for the kids at the same stand as the tea and coffee. If we do, we need dairy free options, as well as marshmallows for toppings! Rachel ventured that she would be able to donate cream, marshmallows and some serving tools.
 - The idea of having a coffee machine has been mooted many times recently and Roberto has been looking into several options as we believe this would be a great generator of monies for the fayre.
 - Y4 – games, sweet tombola – brief discussion about which games we'll put on. Hit the target (ie, archery?) Tin can alley?

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- Y5 – snow globe – this will be manned but it needs two volunteers per shift.
 - Y6 – bar - Amanda Campbell and Annabel Blakesley (both former Co-Chairs) have kindly agreed to run the bar this year. Stock take for the bar needs doing as a matter of urgency. Last year we ran out of mulled wine and that was an issue. Discussion was had about whether to get wine from Borough Market but it was agreed that this was probably too expensive. A big point of discussion was whether we should provide 'gourmet' hot chocolates at the bar this year – it was noted that we already offer Bailey's hot chocolate.
 - NEW RIDE - MJ raised that this year, it has been decided to have a new ride, an inflatable penalty shootout, replacing the 'beat the goalie' game run by Premier Education. This was decided because there was such a high risk with 'beat the goalie' of balls being kicked into people and hurting them and also being kicked into the BBQ.
 - After discussion, it was decided that each child gets 2 kicks with a wristband and it will be £1 for 5 goes thereafter.
 - Discussion as to whether Joe at Premier Education would also be able to supervise this stall, or will we need to find someone else to do it? It was suggested that perhaps Premier Education does one shift and then when he has a break one of the parents can fill in?
 - Also need ideas for prizes for those that are successful at scoring a penalty – not a football!

5. Face Painting

Run by Grainne and Louise who are looking for volunteers for the 3pm to 4pm. Rachel Alexander mentioned that she could help out at that time and was encouraged, as she did such a great job last year!

6. Family Kitchen

AA and others discussed previously to this meeting, the idea of doing jacket potatoes in the Family Kitchen. Every year, we receive feedback that there needs to be more veggie options

available at the fayre as a whole, so it would be a guaranteed source of great revenue to have more veggie dishes. It was noted that we could/would have the ovens of several local houses available to us to cook the potatoes if needs be.

The problem of having very few volunteers to run FK continues to be a blight. Need to find people to run it and make it their own for the next few years. Lama kindly agreed to take the lead on FK. It was discussed that we should do a shoutout for FK (and the BBQ) for volunteers to help run it on the day and provide dishes, especially veggie dishes, as we are always low on these.

It was also noted that it's better to do shoutout messages for a select couple of things like BBQ and FK as part of the problem in the past has been panicky messaging, which might put people off.

7. Grotto

- Aoibheann (who has run the Grotto with her fantastic team for many years) mentioned that the elves and Santa slots often get filled quickly as people are not volunteering on their own year group stalls. Despite this, she needs to find two Santas and also do a shout out for elves as many of the previous team have now left the school.
- She has ordered the gifts – books for older aged children are more expensive than those for younger kids, so it was decided to try and find other gifts for this age group such as Santa gloves and wooden toys (trying to steer clear of plastic items).
- Wrapping happening next week, construction/scaffolding happening on Thursday and building the grotto on Friday.
- Santa costumes need to be out to be aired and got some new beards!!
- Tickets for the grotto will also be done by Aoibheann. £5 for one ticket for the grotto.
- Some of those present mentioned that they had some books that they could donate as gifts for the grotto.
- It was discussed whether it's time for us to invest in stock for the grotto? Should we do a shout out for decorations for the grotto? It was decided that we don't NEED new decorations but they're nice to have and it's a good idea to get rid of

old stuff and replace it with new pieces.

8. Bottle Tombola

It was noted that there will be the usual non uniform day on the day before the fayre in exchange for a bottle that can be used in the tombola.

There was some discussion about the pricing of tickets and whether it should be changed from £1 for five tickets, as it was at the Summer Fayre. It used to be £1 for three tickets but people weren't winning anything so it was decided to change it. In the end, it was decided to revert back to £1 for 3 tickets.

9. Barbecue

BBQ – runs itself! – BBQ Bill is hanging up his apron and Federico has kindly agreed to take over. Bill has told us how much food he ordered last year so we know how much to get. Again, an example of the wisdom of having a google doc or some such with the particulars of setting up each stall and what's needed to hand down to the next organisers.

There was much discussion about providing veggie options for the BBQ, as there has been at various points over the last few months/years. It was mooted before (the idea of veggie options on the BBQ) but not met with much enthusiasm and there are always problems with potential 'cross contamination'.

10. Helpers On Friday For Set Up / FK

FRIDAY – need people to help set up. Sort toys, bottle tombola.

Action: Shoutout for people to help set up on Friday, as well as make dishes for the Family Kitchen.

11. Sweet Donations

It was noted that we need to start asking people to donate their leftover Halloween sweets for use on the sweet tombola.

Action: Send out a Whatsapp message via reps as well as a Parentmail message to get the ball rolling.

12. Music

The issue of music at the fayre was brought up. The music is usually provided by DJ Jonathan but it was noted that we need a new DJ, who can bring their own equipment as Jonathan is leaving (has a child in Year 6). We also need speakers for the Benedict building. Lama offered to bring her tablet and said that we can use her premium Spotify and she has a speaker too. Jess said she can also provide a big speaker.

12. Promoting The Fayre

- Various messages/shoutouts need to go out in the weeks leading up to the fayre – about sweet donations, message in the church newsletter, separate year Rep shoutouts for volunteers to man stalls, for Family Kitchen, BBQ, Grotto and face paint volunteers as well as the general non-uniform day in exchange for a bottle/ cakes the day before.
- Jess mentioned the idea of having a noticeboard for parents at the school gates and easels outside Nursery and Reception to inform parents about the Fayre – we can also use this method of communication throughout the year to let parents know about upcoming PTA events. It was agreed that this is a great idea.
- There was some discussion about the fayre’s sponsors and how much they should be paying. It was concluded that a flat fee is fair if anyone approaches us (get banner at event, flyer mentions their logo).
- Also need to promote the fayre in the church newsletter.

Action – ask Sarah Bracken to put something about the fayre in the church newsletter.

14. AOB:

- Christmas Raffle – we need donations of prizes and people to go out and find prizes among local businesses in Wanstead. Also need to think outside the box, offers of time as opposed to ‘stuff’ ie, dog walker, PT, kids entertainer – trying to spark some interest and ideas? As well as stuff!
 - Aoibheann mentioned she could donate two beauty boxes, Rezina also has a donation of a brand new bedspread and two pillow covers.

ACTION: Shoutout for donations for Christmas raffle.

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- Wreath workshop – Kathy has kindly offered to run the Christmas Wreath workshop again on 4th December. It was discussed how many people should be accommodated this time – should we allow 20, 25, 30? It was 15 last time. Ticket prices were also discussed and it was noted that perhaps the high-ish price of the tickets put some people off.
 - Community Garden – now we're signed up to a new constitution, we need to be careful about money; we can't give any more than the amount that's agreed.
 - DBS checks – do we need to get more for the grotto? Real kerfuffle so worth checking in advance. Roberto/Donna have DBSs - only need one per ?? people –
 - Alex to email office and ask what the current position is and see if there's a cost to the school.
 - Idea to do a First Aid course as a group?

15. Close:

- AA and MJ thanked all for attending the meeting. No other business was noted and the meeting was closed.