Friends’ of St James Weybridge PTA Meeting 16 July 2019

Present: Daisy Huntington (Co-Chair), Kirsty Bostock (Co-Chair), Ian Henderson (incoming Treasurer), Mrs Gemson (Business Manager), Mrs Frost (Teacher), Jackie Henderson (parent), Alex Guest (Parent), Becky Gibbins (parent), Cory Pugh (parent).

Apologies – Kam Prevett (Co-Chair) Lindsey Roberts (Outgoing treasurer)

Summary of what we have raised over the year –including the key events which raised the most. Our current total is £33,433.85 which does not include any funds raised from Dad’s camp, Mum’s Drinks and the Y4 cake sale - a final total should be available at the end of term.

With £5773.15 remaining in the pot, the current available balance is £39,207.

Funding requirements were discussed:

* **20 laptops** - approx. £10k. Mrs Gemson to finalise this purchase.
* **Minibus.** £8k funding was agreed at the last meeting, but Mrs Gemson informed us that it is in fact £10k funding that is now required. It was agreed to increase funding by £2k to meet this request. Mrs Gemson has put in an order request for a new model mini-bus which will hopefully be in place by December.
* **Stride enterprise course for Yr6** **children** – £3.5k – Declined. Much discussion around this topic, with questions raised over the value for money that it offers. Each course costs £3.5k. At the last PTA meeting in January 2019, parents present asked the PTA to gather feedback from the school as to whether they felt it was worth the cost. The feedback received by the PTA was that although the course is popular and successful, the cost is too high for what it is. As business enterprise is part of the curriculum, it cannot be dropped fully, so lots of discussion around how it can be delivered at a lower cost without impacting on the schedules of the Yr6 teachers. Young Enterprise raised as a possibility – Mrs Frost to look into this. It was agreed not to offer funding for this, but that the school will look into alternatives and come back to the PTA should they find a lower cost alternative.
* **EYFS equipment funding request** 
  + Balance bike bikeability course, £1.5k, which includes purchase of x15 balance bikes, helmets and the course resources – Approved
  + Road safety activity set: £179.99 and additional traffic lights at £39.99 – these will enhance the bikeabilty course as well as be a general asset to the infant resources – Approved
  + Guttering and sand set £210 – these will allow children to experiment with gradient and problem solving - Approved
  + Hedgehog stones £17.99 – sensory equipment - Approved.
  + There were various other items on the wish list but it was agreed that a list of these requests will be sent out to school community to ask for used/2nd hand donations.
* **Reading level books** – copper and topaz levels in the infant library are very out of date. It will cost £178 to replace (there are 13 reading levels in total). It was agreed to fund replacing these levels. It was agreed that a request would be put out to the school community to donate any unwanted reading level books that they may have at home.
* **Infant playground equipment/bulbs to plant** - £654.08 – Approved. As there is £500 allocated each year for playground improvements it was agreed that extra £154.08 was approved.
* **Sports/athletics equipment** - £636.96 – Approved. As there has been no request to access the £500 available for the Junior playground this year, it was agreed to approve this request.
* **Blinds** – Approx £3600 – Approved. These are required in the Lodge as well as three classrooms who currently have no blinds to be used in the event of a lock down situation.
* **Wooden lockers to replace pegs** up to c.£15k – declined - The school have requested funding to install lockers for all junior classes, potentially phased in due to cost. There was much discussion around the practicalities of lockers, especially with wet coats. Parents present, including co-chair Kirsty Bostock, felt that lockers would still present problems with space and that mess with coats and bags would still. It was pointed out that many other schools have lockers, so Mrs Frost will speak to Burhill Primary about what they do with coats. There was also concern around the cost of the project, which it was felt was too high. Mrs Gemson suggested a phase in approach, which would mean that a lower funding request could be made, however it was still was still the general consensus of those present that £15k was too much to commit to from the PTA when other potentially more deserving causes may arise.

The PTA announced that both Kirsty Bostock and Kamela Prevett will be stepping down as co-chairs for the 2019/20 school year. Daisy Huntington will consider staying on in the hope that small teams of parents will take on the big events. Jackie and Ian Henderson, who were part of the team who delivered the 2019 quiz would be happy to do the same again next year.

Meeting closed.