

**Friends of St Mary's Meeting  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Present:** Mr Petty (via phone)  
Ruth (School Secretary)  
Holly  
Linsey  
Hana  
Chloe  
Clara  
Laura  
Lucy

Mr Petty welcomed everyone to the meeting. Notes of items to discuss at the meeting were circulated in advance. Mr Petty noted that, in general, behaviour in the school had improved and as such he was happy for a wider range of events to be run this school year.

**Events discussed**

***Quiz Night***

This will be held in the school hall on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, for over 18s only.

Linsey confirmed that adult sized chairs can be borrowed from the Memorial Hall for the event.

An alcohol licence will be required if alcohol is to be sold on the night. This licence will only cover the event and can't be used for other events. **Action: Linsey to arrange the licence.**

There was discussion regarding how best to sell tickets for the event. **Action: Holly to consider further and arrange the event.**

***Christmas activities***

A number of events will be held in the run-up to Christmas. Dates for these are shown at the end of the minutes.

Christmas Card art was discussed with Ruth explaining the process. Parents noted that in past years, cards had been available for collection too close to Christmas. Ruth was asked whether the process could be arranged earlier so that cards are available at a more suitable date.

**Action: Ruth to initiate the process with teachers for kids to create their designs.**

The Christmas sale for kids to buy gifts will be held on the first Friday of December as any stock left over can then also be sold at the Village Book Swap Christmas Fare held on the following day to raise additional funds. The sale will be called "Elfridges".

It was decided not to hold a Christmas fare after school and instead run a Christmas cake and sweet sale after school.

A Christmas raffle will be held with the theme of "12 days of Christmas" with one prize being picked each day over 12 days.

Linsey noted she had contacted Hatfield Asda to arrange a slot for the School Choir to do Christmas Carol singing there to raise funds. This would be one day after school, and parents

would need to take children to Asda for the event. It was noted that this could be opened up to more children in the school if not enough Choir children can attend the event. **Action: Linsey to book a suitable date with Asda once they reply.**

The Christmas tree on the Green will be paid for via a donation from North Mymms Parish Council. The tree lighting event with carols may be another avenue to raise funds. **Action: PTA to consider further what to run to accompany this event.**

### ***Easter Egg hunt***

This will be supplied by the PTA and held on a dry day in week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### ***Rainbow Run***

Ideas of how to make this more fun were briefly discussed. The idea of a colour run was raised but there were concerns about the safety of this for younger kids. Turning this into an assault course was another idea that attendees thought would be good. The aim would be to hold this event in May 2025, before the half-term break. **Action: PTA to consider further in 2025.**

### ***Summer Fete***

The aim for this year is to outsource as much as possible to lessen the work for the PTA team. Stall holders will pay to attend, source a burger van or equivalent to provide food. School would run refreshments, inflatables, raffle and tombola. 28<sup>th</sup> June was the proposed date but it needs to be confirmed whether Duncan is available on that date.

### ***Non-uniform days***

Mr Petty was happy for these and other days such as crazy hair days to be run. He didn't consider these clashed with the wording on the good behaviour chart.

### ***School Disco (after school)***

Mr Petty was happy for this to be organised this year given the improvement in behaviour.

**Action: PTA to arrange a lead person to organise this.**

### **Other items discussed**

**Sporting activities:** Mr. Petty was asked whether the school could have more involvement in sports activities between local schools. Mr Petty confirmed that Mrs Egerton, the new PE lead at the School, had attended a recent meeting between schools on this matter and was keen to initiate more sporting activities at the school.

**District Sports tops:** The issue of tops for kids who participate in District Sports was discussed. It was agreed that the PTA will fund these. Ruth confirmed she requires quotes from three individuals/companies to agree a provider. **Action: Ruth to look into this further and update the PTA with details of the quotes received.**

**Bikes / Scooter racks:** Mr Petty was asked whether an additional bike rack could be installed towards the junior end of the school so there was extra storage for bikes. Currently there is only one bike rack near the Year 1 classroom, and this can get full quickly on certain days. It was also noted that the scooter rack was missing most of the brackets to hold the scooters in place

and so this would need repairing or replacing. Mr Petty confirmed he was happy with both suggestions.

**PTA noticeboard:** It was agreed that the PTA noticeboard could be moved to the external fence to show parents what's going on.

**Target amount for fundraising:** It was agreed that it would be useful to have a target amount for fundraising for this school year and to show what the funds would be used for. Mr Petty confirmed that fundraising from this year would be put towards more outdoor equipment and to renew the area by the fence. The additional bike rack and repairs to the scooter rack could also be covered by this. **Action: Mr Petty to suggest a suitable target amount.**

A thermometer style graphic on the PTA noticeboard to show how fund raising is progressing over the year was also suggested and agreed. **Action: PTA to install this once noticeboard is moved.**

The meeting finished at 3pm.

## Dates agreed

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Quiz Night	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Christmas sale	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Christmas cake sale	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 (after school)
Mother's Day sale	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Easter Egg Hunt	Week commencing 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
Father's Day sale	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Summer Fete	TBC: Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 has been proposed