

Friends of Almond Hill Meeting - 09/02/26

Present from parent body: Rachael Harrington, Caroline Hornby, Becca Copeman, Hannah Bailey, Carly, Sally Davis

From school: Mrs Cawthorn, Mrs Fordham

- New cupboard in Acorn House is now available which is great - a lot more space for storage
 - Trying to source a trolley to transport items from cupboard to hall for events
- Mothers Day Present Room
 - Sally leading this again with thanks
 - Successful shopping in January sales - 450+ gifts already secured
 - Do need a few more bits in certain categories, but will pause shopping until MD presents are out in shops
 - Need to finalise dates - would need to be week commencing 9th March - some back and forth trying to find day as that week has parent teacher meetings and Science Week
 - Decided: Thursday, 12th March
- World Book Day - falls on Thursday, 5th March
 - Entries for chocolate bar name are going to Mrs Fordham for her to pick the name (for next year need to be clear that it's one entry per person as some people submitted multiple names - but popularity is increasing, with 40+ submissions this year)
 - Still need more prizes - have 8 other confirmed prizes (laser tag, Roald Dahl museum etc) but could do with some more book bundles
 - Preorders need to be scheduled in Arbor - let's be explicit in the email that you can purchase for younger siblings too so that we capture some of the Letchmore kids since they aren't doing it this year
 - Stall location - proposed outside year 3 classroom area because more footfall; if have enough volunteers can try to cover both entrances/exits - Mrs Fordham expressed concern about it being too crowded and unsafe; decided main spot should be in playground instead but need to be ready to move after main rush to capture traffic from clubs later on (TBD); hall as back up if wet weather
 - Who has a contact at Tesco to purchase chocolate bars at discount in bulk? Mrs. Burgess organised the blue tokens so maybe an avenue to explore; Rachael to check with Nidhi (AH parent who works at Tesco who used to volunteer for Letchmore PTA)
 - Need to start buying asap if we can't get it in bulk as need about 200 multipacks
 - Request for Where's Wally books
- Summer term events:
 - FDPR - June 18th
 - Penny war - proposed week after SATS
 - Classes compete with coin donations - some coins add points, some deduct points from other jars

- Ice cream sales
- Movie night? Need to be careful about film choice (length) and do it before it gets too hot; some back and forth on whether to do it but it is a fairly easy way to make money
 - Last year made £770
 - Some suggestion to maybe replace with an end of year disco?
- Finances:
 - Mrs Simmons - request for funding for outdoor learning for whole school - Opal Outdoor Learning (more creative play and move away from just competitive sports during breaks etc - resources can also be used for learning but big focus on social play)
 - Approx. £2K
 - Need to align on other commitments to finalise figure (hall projector, quadrant developments) but this amount should be do-able
 - Year 6 leavers
 - 90 yearbooks and hoodies - ~£2400 - agreed
- Look back at last term:
 - Christmas fair was very well received; a lot of work but successful fundraiser
 - Hall maybe a bit too crowded - consider spreading out a bit more
 - Ideally more volunteers and less stuff to be done day off - prep/set up was hectic but we got there in the end!
 - £2067 profit
 - Learnings from Xmas present room: Need list from classes the day before and need to make sure other Arbor sales aren't accidentally included; need to keep alternating class order so same class isn't always last; with bigger cupboard can overbuy a bit more to allow more choice for those kids who pick last (hard to predict number of cash sales)
 - Most successful present room yet - £851 profit
- Next meeting: 20th of April