

WELWYN ST MARY'S SCHOOL FUND – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24 SEPTEMBER 2015

Present:

Evelyne Welch (Chair), Mary Westley (Head), Sarah Ellingworth (Treasurer), Jane Coates, Steph Dew, Louise Riley, Natalie Payne, Tracey Anderson, Tara Hirshfield, , Caroline Spencer, Katie Mitchell and Mr and Mrs King.

1. Welcome

Evelyne welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending the joint School Fund and PTFA AGM.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kathryn Alford

3. Minutes of the last AGM

No objections arose from last year's minutes. They were, therefore, formally adopted as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Chair's Report

Evelyne reported that the School Fund has been a registered charity since 2005. Its prime purpose is to buy additional resources to help support the educational experience of the children in as many ways as possible. The pressures on school budgets continue each year and make them ever more reliant on both the School Fund and the PTFA's help.

Evelyne confirmed that the School Fund had recently contributed £5,000 towards the cost of installing the Astroturf in the KS2 playground and in 2014 had contributed £5,000 towards the cost of updating IT equipment. These are both items that all children will benefit from both old and new to the school.

Evelyne explained that as a registered charity, the School Fund can claim Gift Aid. Gift Aid accounts for around 25% of our current total income and so it is important that everyone who makes a donation, and is eligible, completes the Gift Aid section of the form.

Evelyne further reported that as at the end of April 2015 23 families are currently donating regularly to the school fund with 3 families making one-off donations in that year. However if the fund is to continue to meet its objectives, they would be grateful if more people could donate even as little as £1 a month, this could make a big difference. Evelyne went on further to explain that the School Fund provided an alternative way for people to make donations to the school especially if they are not able to take an active interest in the PFTA. However, there are people who are very active within the PTFA and who still make regular monthly donations to the School Fund.

Evelyne thanked all those making contributions, especially during the current economic climate.

Evelyne then went on to give an overview of the projects/items that the School Fund had contributed to over the last ten years, including Interactive Whiteboards, tables, mobile tray units, carpets, furniture, visualisers, playground equipment, IT equipment and extra resources for maths.

Evelyne finished by again thanking everyone that have and continue to make contributions to the School Fund and confirmed that both Mrs Westley and the Trustees will continue to exercise the trust that is put in them to spend the money responsibly.

5. Treasurers Report

Sarah confirmed the School Fund as at 1st April 2014 the opening balance of fund was £1,826, a further £3,478 had been received in 2015 leaving a balance of £5,304 as at 31st March 2015.

Sarah confirmed as previously noted that £5,000 of that had been committed to the KS2 Astroturf project.

Sarah went on to give a breakdown of income that had been received over the last five years. Whilst there appeared to be a steady income during that period, some of the children of those donating would shortly be moving on to secondary school. Sarah reiterated what Evelyne had said about the School Fund being an alternative way for parents to contribute to the school if they are not able to take an active part in the PTFA and its fundraising events, especially as the School Fund were also able to receive gift aid on their donations.

Sarah also explained that the School Fund had a slightly wider brief on what they were able to purchase for the school than the PTFA who were restricted on what they were able to spend their monies on.

A small discussion then took place with the PTFA members regarding them utilising gift aid for some of their events, especially the Fun Run.

6. Committee Nominations and Elections

Evelyne reported that Kathryn was standing down as Secretary of the School Fund and thanked her for all her hard work.

The nominations then took place as follows:-

Evelyne Welch was proposed and seconded to continue as Chair of the School Fund. Sarah Ellingworth was proposed and seconded to continue as Treasurer. Katie Mitchell was proposed and seconded to take over as Secretary. Jane Coates was proposed and seconded to continue as a Trustee. Mary Westley continues as a Trustee in her capacity as Head teacher.

7. AOB

Mrs Westley extended her thanks to Evelyne and all the other Trustees of the School Fund for all that they do.

8. Next meeting

The next AGM will be in September 2016. It will again be held jointly with the PTFA and the School Parent Council.