

Ash C E V C Primary School  
Main Street  
Ash  
Martock  
Somerset  
TA12 6NS  
Telephone: 01935 822674  
Email: ashprimarypta@hotmail.com



## **Ash Primary School PTA**

### **Meeting Minutes - May 2021**

#### **Opening:**

The meeting was held online via Microsoft Teams at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

#### **In attendance:**

Jenny Bridge (JB), Lynne Buckley (LB), Rebecca Bennett (RBe), Rhi Butler (RBU), Aileen Lockington (AL), Vicki Ousey (VO), Claire Phillips (CP) and Amanda Wills (AW).

#### **Discussion:**

##### **1. Welcome**

##### **2. Missed AGM and appointments for this academic year**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we did not hold an AGM in September 2020, as we usually would at the start of each academic year. VO has checked the rules and the PTA must hold an AGM within 15 months of the date that it was due, so we can carry on and hold an AGM in September 2021.

Agreed that PTA committee positions will remain unchanged for the rest of this academic year, except that Samantha Wensley has stood down from the Vice Chair position and will be replaced by CP.

RBU will be PTA Class Rep in Reception class.

**Action:** RBe to confirm provisional date of AGM, **Wednesday 15th September, 7.30pm**

**Action:** AW to get date published in school newsletter once date is confirmed.

### 3. More involvement of teaching staff in PTA

We welcomed our new headteacher to the meeting and were very glad to have a member of the teaching staff involved.

Decision-making will be easier with the headteacher present at PTA meetings.

### 4. Event ideas

#### a. this term

There is still uncertainty about whether lockdown restrictions will be eased on 21st June, because of the new Indian variant of coronavirus. RBe has had no official guidance yet, and the government will give the school one week's notice about any changes.

We definitely want to hold an event during this summer term; as ever, we need to do some fundraising, and also, everyone needs some fun after the difficult year we've all had. It needs to be fun, profitable and easy-to-manage, with minimal hire costs, in case we have to cancel.

- **A summer party/festival/hoedown** would be fun and hopefully attract more people than a summer fayre. Live music would be great, if we can get a good band. Food and drinks are profitable and easy to manage, as long as we have enough volunteers. Maybe a few stalls and a raffle. Craft Competition to get the children involved.

Need to be able to run it even in the case of wet weather. We need to replace the PTA marquee after the poles were thrown away. CP may be able to borrow one for the event, but it would be a good investment to buy one, as we'll use it for many future events.

Proposed date, the evening of **Friday 16th July**.

**Action:** RBe to confirm proposed date.

**Action:** VO and RBe to contact possible bands to play.

**Action:** VO to check PTA shed for marquee instructions, in case we can replace just the poles.

**Action:** CP to ask about borrowing a marquee.

**Action:** CP to source plastic jugs for Pimms.

**Action:** LB to check/renew license for raffle tickets.

**Action:** PTA to organise a sort-out of the loft.

**Action:** PTA to organise Craft Competition categories & entry forms.

**Action:** All to help with raffle prizes if we have the necessary license. Donations from local businesses where possible.

- **After-school ice cream sales** are always popular, it's easy to organise and a good fundraiser. Friday afternoons after half-term, Thursday in first week due to INSET day on Friday 11th June. Each year group to organise volunteers for selling. Need to keep everyone moving to maintain social distancing. A large menu board will be visible upon entry, so everyone has time to decide what they'd like to buy on their way out. Ice-creams purchased in advance to guarantee availability. Limited selection (all nut-free) and £1 per ice-cream/ice-lolly to keep money handling simple. Reminders to be sent out for parents to bring change.

**Action:** CP/RBe to check new location of freezer and available freezer space.

**Action:** VO to check cool box location, and source a new one if needed.

**Action:** PTA to arrange menu board.

**Action:** LB to provide float on each of the days.

**Action:** PTA to arrange purchase of ice-creams.

**Action:** AW to assign dates to Class Reps so they can arrange volunteers.

- **Sunflower competition** will be fun for children to get involved in, and easy to organise. £1 per entry (2 sunflower seeds given), as an item on ParentPay. Seeds to be distributed to children in the first week after half-term. Children grow the sunflowers at home over the summer and try to grow the tallest. Enter by submitting a photograph of the sunflower with a tape measure on Google Classroom during the first week back in September. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd tallest.

**Action:** RBU to source sunflower seeds and paper envelopes/bags.

**Action:** CP to source plant pots and compost.

**Action:** AW to get details added to newsletter & ParentPay.

**Action:** PTA to organise prizes for September.

- **Non-school-uniform day** in exchange for donations, which can be used as prizes, for e.g tombola or raffle.

**Action:** PTA to confirm date with RBe.

- **Sports day**, not a barbecue this year, but we could do ice-cream sales.

**Action:** RBe to confirm date.

## **b. future events**

Ideas for future events include a Car Boot Sale, a Preloved Sale for secondhand clothes, toys and books, and the return of Coffee Mornings, once we get beyond Covid restrictions. It will be easier for us to use the hall after the transition to six classes.

## **5. Ash Excellent Eight Races**

AL has had email from Adam Hawkins confirming that there's a license for Ash Excellent Eight races to go ahead in September, and it is being planned for **Sunday 12th September 2021**. It's an important fundraiser, with £2500 going directly to the school, which is used to subsidise school trips. The school does need a new minibus, either lease or purchase, and this income would help. The PTA profits from sale of refreshments. The event usually attracts hundreds of people (300 runners, 100 fun runners, plus families/spectators). It's hard to predict future of Covid restrictions, and how many people we can safely manage on site; we may have to limit the number of people this year, or fewer people may sign up. We'd like to continue Adam Hawkins' legacy, and it's a positive association for the school, but we may have to run a "light " version of it this year. Next year (2022) is the 25th anniversary year.

Covid is a good opportunity to make some changes, to make the event both simpler and more sustainable. Perhaps fewer races, and less expenditure on merchandise, such as T-shirts and medals. Wooden medals better for environment. Runners can bring and carry their own water bottles, so no need for water stations and disposable cups. Maybe use Millennium Wood for a fun run, as it's enclosed and wouldn't need as many marshals.

We need someone to replace AL as Race Organiser. VO is considering the role, but there's a lot to do and we think that a Race Committee is needed to share the workload. Some of the parents at school are keen runners and live locally, and will hopefully want to help. Around 50 volunteers are needed, including course set-up the day before. The event relies on the school staff to fill official roles such as time-recording and registration, but we should minimise the amount that they are asked to do on a Sunday, perhaps by allocating time-slots, and by having registration only in advance..

**Action:** AL to prepare a one-page summary of "Ash Races Light" for RBe.

**Action:** PTA to ask local runners about joining a Race Committee.

**Action:** LB to ask Tilda if she'll be involved.

**Action:** VO to contact Steve at Immortal Sport, about cost of auto-recording run times.

**Action:** VO to find out about wooden medals.

## **6. Any Other Business**

To reduce the number of letters sent out to parents, PTA notices will be included on the weekly school newsletter. Details to be sent to Maria in the school office by Thursday of each week.

We'd like more parents to get involved with the PTA. We aim to make it more accessible, by varying the days and times that we hold meetings. We will set the dates of meetings in advance and publish them on the school newsletter. Many hands make light work, and there is a great sense of support and community that comes with volunteering to help out. PTA events should be fun for all involved.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

The next PTA meeting will be held online on Wednesday 9th June, 7.30pm.

**Meeting closed, 9.49pm.**