

Friends of Lyndhurst Minutes: Friday 13th September, 9am

Committee members present:

Richard Leeming (Chair)
Robert Hickson (Co-Treasurer)
Kate Koczwarra (Co-Treasurer)
Emma Fung (Co-Secretary)
Mrs Nowakowska (Co Head Teacher)
Mrs Bennett (Deputy Head Teacher)
Mrs Jarman (Head of EY)

Apologies:

Carly Hamilton-Smith (Co-Secretary)

Minutes below. As always all action points are in bold. Any comments, suggestions, answers to requests for volunteers please sent to Lyndhurst.pta@gmail.com or please reach out to the parent responsible directly either in the playground or on Classlist.

1. School Streets Scheme and Lyndhurst Green Group

Sarah Whitehead recapped on what the Green Group did in the last school year and gave an update on the Schools Streets Scheme and what the Green Group are doing next:

- Last school year the group encouraged families to walk/bike/scooter to school more often, especially during Walk to School week; supported Gardening Club in growing more plants in and around school; monitored pollution levels at the school gate and in the playground; and took the required first steps to gain green accreditation for the School and fulfil the criteria to be considered for Southwark's School Streets scheme (the daily closure of the part of Grove Lane immediately outside school during drop off and pick up times) by registering Lyndhurst to be part of the TfL stars scheme.
- It was acknowledged that the monitoring of pollution levels using tubes is not 100% accurate. Southwark Council have a list of schools which are in highly polluted areas and Lyndhurst falls just outside this list. However, it was agreed by all that efforts should still be made to continue to "green up" the playground and improve air quality at school, especially in light of the inaccuracy of the measurements and the differing official guidelines as to what is acceptable air quality.
- The Green Group are still working on the School Streets scheme and whilst Southwark Council are prioritising such road closures, it is a lengthy process and consultation with School Management, staff, parents, local residents and businesses still has to take place.

ACTION: The Green Group will be meeting up for a coffee at Ortus on Friday 27th September around 9am after morning drop off. Everyone is welcome.

ACTION: Parents wishing to join the Green Group should either pop along to the meeting above, or get in touch with Caroline and Sarah who can add you to their email group.

2. Lyndhurst Cookbook

Sarah Whitehead proposed at the last meeting of last school year, a Lyndhurst Cookbook as a fundraising initiative. The suggestion was well received and Sarah will move ahead with producing this with a view to launching it for sale at the Winter Fair.

A shout out for recipes will be put in the newsletter and Sarah may contact families for more information about their recipes to include in the book. Suggested chapters mooted include, 'Children's favourite recipes', 'Recipes using home-grown ingredients from Lyndhurst Gardening Club', 'recipes from the school chef', 'sugar-free recipes', etc...

ACTION: Please can those who would like to, share their favourite recipes via email to sle.whitehead@gmail.com or get in touch with Friends of Lyndhurst on Classlist.

3. Spending Proposals

Normally spending proposals are publicised and discussed at two spending meetings each year around November and May. However, two urgent proposals have been put forward by School, which needed a quick decision:

The below spending proposals were discussed and passed.

Proposal	Proposed By	Detail	Who Benefits	Amount Requested
1. Year 3 Stone Age trip to Kent	Mrs Sawh	A request to contribute to the cost of taking year 3 to a Stone Age day in Kent. The trip was booked last academic year, but budget priorities have changed since and the coach hire is particularly expensive. In addition to this request, year 3 will hold a number of cake sales to also raise money towards the trip.	Year 3 pupils	£400 APPROVED
2. Gardening supplies	Mrs Jarman	A request to cover the cost of purchasing plug plants, compost and manure, and a water butt for gardening at school. Gardening Club will be making their own compost this year. In addition to the funds requested here, Mrs Jarman is approaching local stables for free manure (normally given but collection is required) and businesses like B&Q to see if they will gift/donate gardening supplies. Southwark Council has also been contacted for free compost bins (again, collection is required).	Whole school community	£150 APPROVED

Total cost of proposals approved: £550.

ACTION: Robert & Kate to issue cheque to school to cover above cost.

ACTION: if anyone can help by collecting the compost bins from Southwark Recycling Centre or occasionally collecting horse manure from local stables, Mrs Jarman would be extremely grateful!

4. Finance and future spending proposal ideas

Co-treasurer Robert Hickson gave a brief overview of how FOL's funds are spent throughout the school year: spending proposals can be submitted by staff or parents by filling out the Spending Proposal Form which can be found on the FOL page on the school website. Proposals must have been thoroughly researched and costed out and have the support of the staff member responsible for that area of curriculum/activity and school management.

Suggestions put forward during this meeting were for more playground equipment, specifically for year 1; the painting of line games on the playground floor and improvements to Mr Joyce's Garden. Mrs Nowakowska explained how playtimes currently work: during morning play and EY & KS1 afternoon play, equipment is put out but it is alternated daily, so hoops one day, balls the next, skipping ropes the next, etc... Table tennis tables are often put out in good weather as well. School constantly need to replace such equipment as it gets broken, lost and hidden. Mr Peddle is currently in charge of such equipment and any suggestions should be made to him in the first instance. During lunchtime play, when the whole school is using the playground, no equipment is put out as there isn't room, but staff do feel that children navigate and use the playground in imaginative and creative ways during this time.

In addition, Mrs Nowakowska acknowledged that each year there are discussions in staff meeting about erecting a permanent climbing structure in the middle of the playground. However, this has not been actioned for two main reasons: (1) there is still the possibility the playground will need to be dug up during a future school holiday to deal with ongoing drain issues; (2) it is felt a permanent climbing structure may cause more accidents and limit how the open playground area could be used.

In response it was agreed that FOL – with parent input, help and support please – would research and cost out how Mr Joyce’s Garden (for new parents this is the area behind the MUGA/next to Nursery in front of the music huts with the wooden chipping on the floor) could be made safe and what equipment could be erected there such as a new improved climbing wall and frame. In addition, we will look at whether grants from Southwark Council – such as their Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund (deadline October) - Trees4Cities and other local businesses are available to meet the costs of improvements.

ACTION: FOL will make improvements to Mr Joyce’s Garden a focus this year and research and cost out improvements. If you could help with this process and would like to be a part of the plans and discussions please get in contact with Emma Fung at Lyndhurst.pta@gmail.com

ACTION: if you have knowledge of a grant that we could apply for to help cover the cost of improving Mr Joyce’s Garden and the playground and/or have experience of applying for similar grants please do get in touch as we need lots of help here! We’d like to put a task force together involving a number of parents with either the time or expertise to identify and apply for grants to fund key initiatives at school. Please get in touch with Emma Fung at Lyndhurst.pta@gmail.com if you could help.

5. Easyfundraising

Co-treasurer, Kate Koczwarra, reminded everyone that FOL is signed up to the easyfundraising scheme and that we are close to raising £1,000 from participation in the scheme and for the need to remember to use it whenever shopping is done online.

For those that are not already signed up it’s very simple: register with easyfundraising, choosing **“Lyndhurst Primary School PTA – Camberwell”** as your chosen charity, download a simple widget on your browser and each time you shop online with one of their 3,000+ retailers (such as Sainsburys, John Lewis, M&S, Argos, booking.com, etc...) you are asked if you would like the retailer to make a donation to Friends of Lyndhurst at no additional cost to you.

ACTION: Emma to publicise in the weekly newsletter this week and at regular intervals between now and the end of the year as Black Friday and Christmas approach.

ACTION: All parents – please sign up if you shop online! Especially for big purchases such as holidays and computer equipment.

6. Library plans

Mrs Bennett provided updates on the planned transformation of Congo classroom, the KS1 resources room and the room next to the year 6 classrooms into library and reading spaces. The rooms will be multi-functional to be utilised as libraries, teaching spaces for small groups and meeting rooms. Books will not be available for loan (due to the cost of then needing to hire a librarian, invest in specific computer software and to minimise the disappearance of books!) but for children to read and borrow within school.

Currently an audit is being done to ensure all books held by school are relevant and in good condition. In time, school will publish a “wish list” of books they would like to have in the library and parent Alison put forward a great suggestion of families being able to sponsor a book if they wished. In addition, publishers and local businesses could be approached to help fund books. Co-Treasurer, Kate also brought everyone’s attention to The Book People’s current promotion, Big Book Boost, where they donate £1 to a school of your choice for every £10 spent with them.

What parents can get involved in now to support the school’s library plans is the following:

ACTION:

- (i) **Book sorting; if there are any volunteers who could spare some time assisting Mrs Baldwin looking through books pull out any which are in a poor condition or are not library quality**
- (ii) **Soft furnishings: if you can make some cushion covers for the reading spaces Mrs Baldwin would love to hear from you. Patterns (and maybe material?) can be provided. Covers could**

either be made in your own time at home, or by joining and assisting in a Club Class on Friday afternoons where pupils, parents and staff will make covers together. Mrs Baldwin can be contacted via the school office, or drop an email to Lyndhurst.pta@gmail.com and we will put you in touch.

7. Class Reps 2019/20

We are looking for 1-2 reps per class for the new academic year. Reps are responsible for collating contact details for parents in your child's class to help facilitate communications from us and between yourselves, possibly organise a couple of social activities during the year for your class/year (eg: class picnics, evening drinks for parents, help with child care on school closure days, etc), and oversee the fair tasks allocated to your class for the school fairs.

ACTION: if you are interested please drop us an email on Lyndhurst.pta@gmail.com or pop along to the October meeting.

8. A.O.B

- (i) Parent Rosie updated on the conversations her and Mrs Nowakowska had the end of last term about reducing the sugar content of desserts at school and better supporting pupils to have healthy lifestyles, take exercises and make informed food choices. Mrs Nowakowska added that she had since met with Cathy, the school chef, and recipes had already been tweaked to reduce the amount of sugar, and would continue to be so.
ACTION: Rosie to set up a Sugar Smart parent group to share sugar-light/free recipes (and share some recipes with Sarah W for the Lyndhurst Cookbook); and look at running a 'healthy' cake sale with sugar free baking, fruit-kebabs, etc.
- (ii) Parent Sophie requested a non-sporty after school club with emphasis on art and creativity. Hopefully tapping into parental expertise from within the school community and also bolstered by local educational institutions such as The Drawing School at Vauxhall and the South London Gallery.
ACTION: Mrs Nowakowska to speak to some parents who have shown interest in running art/creative clubs in the past.
- (iii) A request was also made for Slow-learning clubs after school (to offer extra support for those who want help outside of school with maths/literacy/etc) and more workshops for parents on how to support children outside of school. School acknowledged the importance of this and confirmed parent workshops would continue to be held this year. The first one is on Tuesday 24th September about Phonics for Reception parents. Information on others will be shared across the school year.
- (iv) New school website: Mrs Nowakowska confirmed the new school website will be launched by the beginning of October and the new look school newsletter forms a part of this redesign. Apologies were made that the school newsletter did not reach all parents last Friday and that as a result short notice was given about the Meet the Team meetings being held this week. Such meetings will be advertised at the end of the Summer Term in July for the school year 2020/21 to address this.
- (v) Swimming: Mrs Bennett confirms that the KS2 swimming terms will be organised as follows: years 5-6 will swim on Friday mornings between now and February half term. Years 3-4 will swim on Friday mornings from February half term until the end of the Summer term in July.
- (vi) Second hand PE Kit: demand for this seems present, despite their being no donations when FOL tried to organise this during the Summer Fair. As a new term is here and many pupils have grown over the summer, FOL will attempt again to organise a sale of second hand PE Kit.
ACTION: Emma to speak to Alison about whether she would like to organise this again. If anyone else is keen to help/lead, please get in touch.

End.