

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



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Dear Parent/Carer

17th February 2023

Re: Information and Fundraising meeting

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our open meeting for all parents & carers which took place last night. Also thank you to those of you have gave your apologies but are committed to helping us with fundraising.

Present at the meeting was myself, Dr Sarah Haynes (Chair of the Academy Council); Mrs Angela Johnson (Chair of the PTA); Ms Sarah Ingwersen (Secretary of PTA); Mr Storey and Mrs Green.

We gave a presentation on how school are funded and the implications for our own school, outlining the financial pressures we are facing.

We then went on to thank everyone who was involved in raising over £11,224 in the last Autumn Term – this was a phenomenal achievement! We explained that our Subject Leads have carried out an audit of resources for their subject area across the whole school and are currently compiling a list of 'essential' resources and 'wish list' resources. The 'essential' list will then be prioritised and resources ordered after the half term break.

We will be communicating with parents through our Facebook page and also through our website. We have a section called The Friends of Stanhope Barrington and this can be found using the Come and See drop down menu.

On this section we will be sharing how the money is being spent and will be including photos of children using the new equipment and providing quotes from the children. We really want to celebrate the amazing impact the new resources will have on our school.

We then went on to discuss a wide range of fantastic suggestions which parents & carers have made. We are extremely mindful of our Poverty Proofing Plan which seeks to ensure that we do not put unnecessary financial pressure on our families.

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We therefore came up with a plan which will mean us carrying out an official fundraising event every half term – all of which are totally optional.

Decisions taken at the meeting:

- To hold three fairs each year – one at the end of each term – Christmas, Easter and Summer

We discussed making these fairs as big and as entertaining as we possibly can and to try to incorporate suggestions and ideas into the fairs. For example, offering a car washing service at the Easter fair.

- To hold an Indian Street Party in the summer term after the Easter holidays. This was put forward by Leah and Usha (Aarohi's parents) who have put together a comprehensive plan including Indian street food, kite making, saris to wear and Indian music and dance.
- To hold a Bingo night the date of which is to be arranged but ideally in Autumn Term 1
- To hold a Crazy Raisin' event during Spring Term 1 whereby the children can do a sponsored activity of their own choosing with every child doing something different.

In addition, we discussed some options which could be ongoing such as:

- Amazon offer a 'wishlist' service whereby school can identify resources which would make a huge difference in school and when parents are shopping on Amazon they can choose to add an item to their basket. Parents could choose to do this instead of buying staff gifts at Christmas or the end of the school year but that would be totally up to them.
- A number of parents have suggested setting up a direct debit so that they can contribute financially to support the school because they are time poor and cannot commit time but would like to commit money – again this would be entirely optional.
- Some parents have also offered to do their own fundraising activities and then make donations to the school.

I cannot emphasise strongly enough that there is no expectation whatsoever for families to contribute. I totally appreciate how much financial pressure we are all under with the rise in the cost of living at the moment. However, as explained at our meeting, the financial pressures on the school are significant and I would be failing our children if I didn't explore every possible option for raising money to support them.

I will be writing out again after half term to share the plans for the Easter Fair but if anyone has any ideas for stalls or other suggestions please do not hesitate to get involved.

You can speak to Kirstie Peart, Julia Heppell, or any member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher