

FPS Ideas Social (held on 26 January 2017)

This is a summary of the FPS Social Evening held in January, to give all parents an opportunity to see what was discussed. If you want to get in touch on any of the below, or to offer further ideas, please do! Contact information is at the end.

We also want to thank all those who attended the evening. It was good fun and a great opportunity to brainstorm ideas, some of which are already in train. We look forward to more of these evenings in the future.

Thank you,

Maria James FPS Chair, Ruth Allen and Lucie Holt-Davies FPS Vice Chairs

General feedback

The event was attended by over 35 parents/carers.

Feedback from the event was very positive, people liked that the presentation was short but informative, enjoyed discussing ideas and suggested another event in around six months time as an update.

Wish List

It was felt that it may be better to prioritise educational equipment and facilities over nice to have items.

Thoughts around the wish list for spending at school focused a lot around the outdoor space and learning resources. Suggestions included more social seating areas for children to gather, painted activities (100 square, maze etc), climbing wall, extending the 'jungle gym', chalkboard on the walls, marking a netball court on the playground and equipment including bouncy hoppers, rugby balls, goal posts, fixed basketball hoops, balls, bats and hoops.

BT funding £250 towards girls football kit?

Learning resources listed included more phonics reading books for KS1, more science/nature equipment for children to use to observe, home reading books and homework books, lego (maybe a call out to parents to donate this?) Also can parents donate old books. Other suggestions included a story hut with books, an imagination station with dolls, dragons, castles etc

It was thought that a mosaic linked to our 150 year anniversary would be good at the front of the school. To remind all that we are a church school, reaffirm our sense of belonging to the church, and to make parents think about why they chose this school. Some liked the idea of a cross on the front of the school, to make a strong Christian statement. Could the Priory Church help with this/donate something? Perhaps the children could design the mosaic?

It was thought that rather than having a spiritual garden, perhaps we could have more benches and make more of the memorial garden, perhaps try and create a quiet zone.

Fundraising Ideas

Parents

Parents socials such as wine tasting, quiz night, race night, fish and chip supper, bingo, pamper evening (tap into parent businesses), pudding club, music concert (gala evening), Silver Ball for 150 years – but be careful not to alienate parents who think this involves costly dresses/suits etc

Children

Events for the children in addition to discos: roller disco at 2Rivers, more mufti days, after school reading club, an after school cooking club, making use of the mobile kitchens for kids to cook and bake, paid per term (Lou), an annual 'pop up shop' last one raised thousands, filled with Christmas crafts made by the kids in Oct/Nov (Lou), crabbing competition on the quay (with prizes), film nights in hall.

Sports events

Fancy dress sponsored fun run (parents), Fit and Fruity Friday, sponsor school teams in other locally organized sports events ie Poole Running Festival, parents sponsored bike ride, sports event run by parents to raise money for new playtime sports equipment.

Other initiatives

1. 'Holding pen' aka coffee shop to be open 3.10-4pm before school fayre to sell coffee/food etc to parents and families while they wait for fayre to open
2. Monthly cake sale, classes taking in turns to host
3. Coffee tent outside the school in the morning – by the crossing.
4. Collection box in reception.
5. More involvement in Christchurch events such as a stall at the Christmas festival, cake stall at food festival, float at Carnival
6. Spring/summer pay to park bike or scooter 50p for a week or if driving £1.00
7. Sponsor a brick on school wall to mark 150 anniversary ie each child pay a donation to colour/paint a brick.
8. 150 years time capsule
9. Nearly new sales

Comments

There were many comments around making more use of volunteers. Corporate volunteer days held by large companies like JP Morgan may be worth investigating, also a 'self help' day to invite parents/community to come and do DIY/tidying etc. Also a 'trade day' – capture savings made by using volunteers on a monthly/annual basis

Also to get more parent helpers to come and help with reading and maths. And if parents cant help volunteering with events etc, can they put £5.00 per month standing order to FPS for funding help as a way of contributing?

There were comments around the school's links with the church, whether a more proactive relationship could be established but not just in terms of funding as the relationship can't only be about money. It was commented that funding from the church may be affected by goodwill/footfall of parents from the school going to church.

Suggestions for other funding streams:

1. Focus all donations/fundraising on FPS
2. Important to reclaim gift aid
3. Apply to Meyrick Estate (they gave a donation, as we sold tickets for the circus in summer)
4. Promote legacy gifts to the school to former pupils
5. Tutoring (different topic each week division, multiplication, fractions etc) £5 per child. Parents who are TAs/teachers could help out alongside teachers
6. Match funding promoted – research local companies who offer it and promote this through comms to parents
7. Local business open evening to promote sponsorship at the school by local businesses
8. Themed fancy dress eg book day/Victorian themed – this costs parents money which is better spent directly to the school
9. Voluntary monthly standing order for parents to donate, form given when child joins school.

Communication

There were various ideas around communication. It was felt that the key ideas from the evening should be emailed to all parents, especially with regard to the funding challenges the school is facing. Using photos to show what money has been spent on in the FPS advertising board and on the school website. Other ideas included an open day for the community to promote the school, trying to involve the community in the school more (DIY, funding, gardening, reading etc). It was also felt that communication between teachers and parents to tell them if there is anything in particular their class needs would be helpful.

Perhaps we could display old sports equipment for parents to see, along with a wish list and price list for what we want to replace it with? Ask for specific donations towards specific items

It was also felt that we should ask the children for their feedback about what kind of events they might like to go to in addition to discos. Also for their fundraising ideas – then they could also have a say on what the money raised is spent on?

If you have any questions or comments, we would love to hear from you.

Please email Maria - james-maria@sky.com or call on 077591262328.