



## Friends of Ditchheat School

23/10/25 – 15:40 – Ditchheat School Hall

Attendees – Committee members: Aimee Arthur (Chair), Kirsty Senior (Treasurer), Nadia Holding (Secretary), Laura Ochoa (Vice-Chair).

Other Attendees: Olivia (Liv) Atkinson, Dee Banbury, Elaine Cosser (Head of School), Amy Gammell, Kristie Hughes, Daisy Legg, Andrea Oakwood.

Apologies: Samantha Wilson (Vice-Treasurer), Natalie Bullard, Nellie English.

Item		Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Financial update</b>	
	Current balance: £16,344. Recent expenditure includes music lessons and megaphone (purchased for Colour Run). Not much movement, but money to spend! Colour Run sponsorship amounts to approximately £1,200 but still have Gift Aid to come (of which more later ...).	<b>KS</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Wreath Workshop</b>	
	Agreed date of Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> December. Time: 7pm to 9pm. 15 tickets @ £35. Daisy leading with help from Laura (refreshments) and Laura's mother. Liv to do poster.	<b>DL/LO/OA</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Christmas Lunch</b>	
	Turkey ordered (thank you, Gemma Travis!). Kirsty will do spreadsheet and allocate tasks nearer the time. Agreed to have a FC fly-by and all voted for gifts (books) for children (Dee offered to wrap – thank you!), to be in their classes after lunch.	<b>KS/DB</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Christmas Present Appeal</b>	
	Sheila Westlake from the Salvation Army will come to present to the children in assembly (as last year) on Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> November. Email with all information to be sent out to parents following this (Nadia to send to office along with poster). Mufti (non-uniform day) on Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December when presents (unwrapped) can be brought in at drop-off. Nadia to deliver later to Salvation Army (they will be distributed to local families, in collaboration with Social Services, during the week of 15 <sup>th</sup> December).	<b>NH/EC</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>School website update / HMRC</b>	
	Kirsty raised the need to have Committee members named on the school website – will send names to Elaine to update. Kirsty liaising with HMRC to enable us to reclaim Gift Aid – a big thank you for managing this on behalf of FoDS!	<b>KS/EC</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Zambia project</b>	
	Elaine raised the subject of a cultural exchange link with Zambia, and she is due to visit the country with Mandy from Bruton School (whose link with a school there goes back 25 years) during half term in February 2026. Suggested a table top sale and refreshments to raise money and awareness on Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> November after school in Hall. Details TBD. Elaine to put information in newsletter and ask for volunteers.	<b>EC</b>



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<b>7</b>	<b>Table Top Sale</b>	
	Andrea proposed holding a large table top sale at Caryford Hall (Castle Cary) on a Saturday next March/April (in association with Beavers). Details to be discussed in more detail nearer the event and volunteers recruited. Requested permission (granted) to book the hall (@ £16 per hour from 8am to 2pm) as availability is scarce, after confirming date with school (avoiding Easter holidays).	<b>AO</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Cloud subscription</b>	
	Item raised in absentia by Sam Wilson, asking if FoDS could pay for a school cloud subscription. Elaine said not necessary currently and will discuss any need with school's IT provider. Laura offered financial support from FoDS if needed.	<b>EC/SW/LO</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Nativity refreshments</b>	
	Liv and Nadia to provide refreshments for the KS1 and KS2 Nativity performances in School Hall. Tea and coffee/mulled wine and mince pies. KS1 date TBD, either Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> December or Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December – performances at 9.30am and 1.30pm. KS2 on Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> December – performances at 1.30pm and 5.30pm.	<b>OA/NH</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Other business</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on clothes bank – Elaine in discussion with Village Hall but issue of space there. Suggestion of having it at Barber's. Liv to approach them about it. May very well be a better option, all things considered. Thank you, Liv!</li> <li>School now has a water butt (thanks to funding received by Elaine), but it needs guttering installed; Kirsty nominated husband Paul for the job – thank you!</li> <li>Andrea requested a plant compost unit – will research options and revert back with costs.</li> <li>Discussion of Sum-Up being available to others when Kirsty not present for events; Kirsty to decide on an appropriate and accountable level of access. Must also bear in mind that most issues with the system are due to poor signal in areas where events are held.</li> </ul>	<p><b>OA</b></p> <p><b>KS</b></p> <p><b>AO</b></p> <p><b>KS</b></p>
<b>11</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>	
	No date set. Happy half-term break to all!	