

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



Westcroft

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Dear Parent/Carer

31st October 2022

Re: Fundraising meeting

On 17th October 2022, I invited all parents/carers to come along to a meeting to discuss fundraising for our school. Unfortunately, no-one apart from myself and the Chair of the PTA attended.

This meeting was advertised by letter, Facebook, website, text and in our noticeboard.

A similar meeting was held in the summer term to establish a group of parents/carers willing to help to organise the Summer Fair. This was also very poorly supported with only two parents attending. At this stage I had considered cancelling the Summer Fair due to lack of support and this option was discussed with the Academy Council. However, on reflection, we felt that for two reasons I would organise the event myself with support from the staff team. Firstly, I thought people were out of the habit of coming into school and joining in with activities due to the effects of Covid and lockdowns and hoped that once we held an amazing Summer Fair people would be more motivated to support us. Secondly, I am very mindful that the current PTA bank account has dwindled significantly since March 2020 when Covid hit and all fund-raising events ceased so we needed to hold this event in order to facilitate activities which benefit all of our children.

I was really hopeful that we would be able to put together a team of parents who would come together for the good of the school and their children to help to organise and run a series of fund-raising events throughout this academic year. This was promoted on our website, at the Welcome Back Fair and the MacMillan Cancer Coffee Morning – with no response.

Due to the fact that no-one came to the most recent meeting, it is with a heavy heart that I have no option but to cancel the Christmas Fair for parents planned for Friday 9th December 2022. It is not fair to expect the staff team to take on this role again (as they did with the summer fair) when they are already working so hard on Christmas plays, crafts, performances, carol services, panto and discos on top of teaching and learning which must still continue.

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In addition, I am sorry to inform you that there is only sufficient money in our PTA (Parent Teachers Association) bank account to subsidise educational visits up to the Summer Term 2023. From that time parents and carers will be asked to fund the full cost of any trip, visit or visitor event we organise. I am really devastated about this because in years past we have been able to use the PTA fund (money raised by events organised by dedicated parents/carers) to subsidise activities which removed financial barriers for all and resulted in every single child having the opportunity to participate in a variety of learning opportunities including educational visits, trips, theatre visits into school and library resources.

Prior to Covid we had a very active fundraising group who organised a very successful Harry Potter Night, exciting Bingo nights, amazing fairs, Coffee Mornings and lots more throughout the year but as children have left the school in Year 6, many parents who were involved have also left.

I do appreciate how busy everyone is and how we are all under such stress and pressure following Covid, the cost of living rises and the current energy crisis. I also appreciate that some people have come forward and said they would help out. However, organising these events is time consuming and a lot of work for only a couple of people to take on. The saying 'many hands make light work' is very true when organising fundraising events. We need people who will take the lead on the planning and organising of fundraising events, co-ordinate people who have offered to help out and promote the events as widely as possible. Unfortunately, all of that work cannot be done by just the two people who attended the meeting and therefore I have taken the decision to cancel the Christmas Fair.

If anyone would like to come forward and offer their services in the capacity of planning and organising fundraising events this would be very much appreciated. Please speak to me if you are interested and could take on this role as a member of a dedicated and proactive team of supporters. If we do not get enough support it may be necessary to cancel further events such as the Easter Fair and Summer Fair later in the year.

I cannot emphasise strongly enough how important the PTA fundraising element is to our school. I am sure you have all heard in the news about cuts in funding and the financial pressures on schools. Please don't think our school is financially secure and will be able to find funding for trips and educational visits as this is NOT the case. Without the PTA fundraising events the money for these additionalities will run out by the end of June 2023. We need to raise over £3,200 per year in order to subsidise each child £7.50 per term.

I am aware that a few parents I have spoken to are trying to muster support at the moment and I thank them so much for being proactive. I have also had a few parents offer to help but it is a group of 'organisers and planners' that we desperately need. Please consider if you can spare a few hours to help to plan and organise some fundraising events for our school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher

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