

## Friends of Halstow meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 12 September, 2023

**Time:** 8pm

**Location:** Halstow Primary School

**Attendees:** Natasha Tilley, Jennie Marsh, Sasha Harker, Katharine Kennedy, Mary Anne Moffatt, Matthew Dodds, Vanessa Hodgins (minutes), Alex Swann, Hinan Medouni, Valentina Crovato, Maria Bryan, Bryony Jones, Gayle Issa, Rachel Dodds, Nancy Diaz Anodon, Kristina Matheson, Lina Hanly, Claire Tugwell, Sophie Kelly (Via Zoom)

### Key points discussed

#### Items already delivered by Friends of Halstow to the school:

- High Vis vests to be worn by students on school excursions
- Playground equipment for the whole school
- Three skips and two days with a tree surgeon to make the Bell House Garden area safe to work in
- Maths games, iPads and Lego Spike Robots for classroom coding lessons
- Coaches for last year's Year 2 trip to the farm
- Woodland sessions at the Bridge for reception
- Ice cream van, movie night snacks, photo booth and decorations for the 2023 Year 6 Leavers party
- New atlases and dictionaries for use in all classrooms
- Funds for each teacher to personalise their classrooms with renewed kit and materials

#### Items on their way

- The Tempest at the Unicorn Theatre for all students in Years 3-6.
- A whole school curriculum workshop programme which enables the children to broaden their knowledge and hopefully instil a love of reading and literature
- Ongoing renovations in the Bell House that will provide a lovely place for children to play and a space for outdoor teaching opportunities.

#### School Fundraising Requests:

**Learning at the Bridge for Reception class:** Friends of Halstow will continue to fund the Outdoor Learning classes at the Bridge with Ruth Cracknell for this year's reception class.

**Bell House Garden:** Friends of Halstow will be continuing to fund the refurbishments for the Bell House Garden. Work should be able to start soon on the raised beds. Sarah Brown is leading the project and has been in discussion with Natasha Tilley with next steps to be taken.

**AV Equipment:** Natasha Tilley requested that we fund new AV equipment for the top and bottom halls. This is also to include a detachable screen. This will allow a lot more flexibility for assemblies and workshops in the school.

**School workshops:** There has been a request for funding for workshops for each year group. Natasha has a contact at 'Chain Reaction' who may be able to provide the children with workshops on topics such as anti bullying and girl empowerment.

**Update to KS2 playground:** There has also been a request to update the KS2 playground and an area to play football. The Pavilion area will also need works done soon.

**Sutcliffe Park:** The school sports day will be returning to Sutcliffe Park. The school has sports premium funding for the hire of Sutcliffe Park, but they have requested funding for transport of the children to and from there.

Action: Natasha Tilley to get necessary costings

### **Confirmed upcoming events:**

**New family's mixer:** Date confirmed as 16 September and will be held in the Bridge in the East Greenwich Pleasaunce from 11.30am until 1.30pm. All new families to the school are welcome. There will be kit sales taking place and a list of upcoming FOH events to be distributed to attendees. Action: If you can volunteer your time to attend this event please come forward.

**Pizza night:** The price of the pizzas has raised to £7 each. It was voted that this is still good value for money, and we should still retain the same profit margin as before. Orders for the pizza are to be in by Saturday, 7 October. The pizzas will then arrive in school on Friday, 13 October. Orders will then need to be sorted and distributed to parents. Alex Swann has agreed to run the event.

**Halloween Disco:** This will be held in school on Thursday, 19 October. It will be an evening event with an earlier start time for KS1 then a later session for KS2. All children are to arrive with a parent/carer. It is not a drop off event. Valentino Crovato has agreed to run this event. There will be bar and tuck shop items on sale along with pizzas on the ground floor with a disco on the upper floor. There will also be Halloween games with suggestions of wrap a mummy and facepainting on offer. There will be a request for volunteers on the night coming out shortly. There was a parent DJ who ran the music last year and this was very well received by everyone. He is to be asked if he will be happy to DJ again. Action: Mary Anne will need two weeks notice to raise the float for the evening.

### **Christmas events:**

**Christmas Fair:** We will be hosting a Christmas Fair on the afternoon of Thursday, 7 December, 2023 with suggested activities for the children to partake in of gingerbread decorating, reindeer food making and Christmas games. More details to be provided closer to the time.

**Christmas Cards:** The school will also be doing Christmas Cards for parents/carers to purchase. This has proved very popular with families in the past and is a good fundraiser for school. This is being led by Claire Tugwell. The blank templates for children to draw on should

be arriving this week. Children will have needed to complete their design by the end of October. Action: Once the orders are received into school Claire will need help bagging up orders and distributing them to parents.

**Christmas Pantomime:** The school have requested funding from Friends of Halstow for an end of year treat with a pantomime/stage production to come to school and perform for the children. Action: Natasha to provide costings.

**Christmas raffle:** There was talk that we could make up boxes with donations from parents to be raffled off and drawn at the children's school plays. This has worked well as a fundraiser at other local schools.

**Amazon Wishlist:** An Amazon Wishlist will be set up shortly so that teachers can make requests for items needed by the school and for their classrooms. Parents/carers will then be able to make purchases if they are able with items being delivered directly to school.

**AGM nominations:** The AGM will be on Tuesday 10 October, 2023. New nominations for board members will be voted in. All are welcome.

**Halstow branded kit manager:** A kit manager is required for maintaining stock and reordering Halstow branded items such as book bags and t-shirts as necessary. They will also be required to distribute kit to families that place orders with Friends of Halstow. It is not a big role. Anyone who is happy to take on the role please come forward.

#### **Upcoming events discussed:**

**Wine/Beer tasting:** We normally do a wine tasting event at school with Theatre of Wine but this has not proven to be as popular in recent years with low turnout from parents/carers. Discussion of other fundraising events such as a beer/wine tasting event in a local pub or in a brewery were discussed. If anyone has any suggestions or wants to be an event manager for this event please come forward.

**Film nights:** It was suggested that once the new AV equipment is purchased for school that we could host family film nights. We would need to organise a license to run the event and show the film but it was agreed that it would probably prove very popular with families.

**Upcoming meetings:** Regular monthly meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month. 7.45pm arrival for an 8pm to 9pm meeting in the school staff room.

**Dates of upcoming meetings:** 10 October (AGM), 14 November, 12 December, 16 January, 6 February, 12 March, 16 April, 14 May, 11 June, 18 June, 25 June, 9 July.