

SASA AGENDA
Thursday 5th May 2022

Attendees:

Helen Reid, Anna Chamberlain, Jason Clarke, Richard Cohen, Eleanor Cameron, Anita Matadeen, Rachael Farnsworth, Katie Small, Paul Tucker, Julie Blyth, Vanessa Clipstone, Nichola Heer, Mazz Image, Sarah Sidebottom

Apologies: Vikki Simpson, Emily Johnstone, Ian Johnstone, Jill Horner, Tetyana Bogdan

1) Review of the Year

Great to have events up and running again this year after Lockdown. The **Fun Run** and **International Evening** at the start of the school year both went well and were well-attended – always popular events. We had the **matchbox challenge** during the Easter holidays and the feedback was the children enjoyed that. Those who attended the evening **Quiz** earlier this month enjoyed it and had a really fun night (great to have the teachers make up a team too) but there was surprise at the comparatively low attendance.

Thought that partly loss of momentum after Lockdown, people's evenings are busy. Some thought the curry usually provided makes it a bigger draw. Mentioned too that Rainbow, Year 1 and Year 2 parents have not yet been used to being part of these community events due to Covid, so didn't turn up in the numbers there would have been previously.

Important to SASA and the school to put on some community events that bring the parents together to have fun, not just for the children.

The recent Friday after school **Summer Fete** was a big success and showed how events driven by the school, teachers and children with parent volunteers all pulling together can have great results. Very happy children, and a good fundraiser while providing very affordable entertainment (20p a go). Selling tickets in advance, while hectic, was good to avoid lots of money having to change hands on each stall.

Looks to have earned around £1000 on the day for the school – before expenses paid out. Ticked the boxes for being a great school community event and a good fundraiser too. Thanks to everyone who took part in planning, doing a session running a stall, setting up and clearing up at the end.

Special thanks to ALL the teachers who helped out, whether that was planning/decorating stalls with their children and/or getting soaked on the very popular Sponge a Teacher stall. They were great sports and the children loved it.

There was a special mention and thanks for Chris Daniels and her After School Club too, for ensuring the children at ASC that day didn't miss out and still had a great time going round the fair. Much appreciated by parents.

Jason – this is a great opportunity with new staff coming in to set a new blueprint for more school involvement in these events. The children love to see their teachers attending and having fun. Mary Wright and Jo Stewart will be the SASA liaison links from Sept.

The group expressed heartfelt thanks to Jason for his commitment to SASA over the years, always going above and beyond duty and taking part and helping out at events so enthusiastically, often after a full day at school. He will be dearly missed.

2) Treasurer's Report - TBC

We have around £11K in the bank after the year's events, and SASA has made numerous financial contributions to the school, including new library books, £2K towards Art Week, money towards the Year 6

Yearbooks, cameras for Year 2 and some money per class for teachers to spend according to their class needs.

With such a health bank balance, Jason suggested that next year we discuss with Jo Holmes if there's a focus we could have for that money, to help towards a large school project.

Discussed that we need to promote SASA activities more to the wider parent community – what we do, and how we contribute.

The current SASA board in the school is always overlooked, especially as no-one goes into school anymore – we need a proper, updated SASA board where it can be seen to promote our activities – likely the playground.

Reported that Rainbow, Year 1 & Year 2 parents feel disconnected from the PTA – need a big campaign to welcome them in and get them more involved. People don't have to commit their time long term – we'd love a bank of people to dip in and help out at events and help run events when they can. The more people we have, the less any individual needs to do. SASA needs to be more visible at new parent Rainbow meetings and in literature sent out to new parents of any year group to let them know what we do and how they can get involved.

We're setting up a working party to come together and discuss the future of SASA – what do we stand for, how can we communicate this most effectively? Take this vision to Jo Holmes. A good opportunity to change things we've done for so long but which no longer work.

3) Voting of Positions – Chair, Vice-Chairs, Communications, Secretary, Reps

Helen, Anna and Vikki - the current committee – wish to step down from their positions, although will remain involved in helping run SASA events.

Agreed by all that it no longer works to have the old structure of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Comms. Too much pressure on a small group of people. Shared ownership and a flatter structure the new way forward. New titles, new ways of communicating to re-energise existing people and bring in new helpers – for the working group to discuss the direction of SASA. Shared chairing of meetings & responsibility.

Need a person to be an informal link with the school/Head to meet every couple of weeks and report back. Doesn't have to be a "Chair". Could be part of a new Comms role.

Vanessa agreed to speak to Jo Holmes to get direction from her and start dialogue.

All class reps agreed to continue for another year.

4) Looking ahead/upcoming events

Welcome Coffee for new parents – date in Sept TBC

Fun Run (headed by Liz) – Sept.

International Evening (headed by Anita & Katie). Usually 2nd Fri of Sept - TBC

Decided to leave the summer photography competition this year and reconsider possibly next year.

Christmas Fair – to be discussed by working party, and will be a joint committee effort to share the load, not led by a Chair/Vice. Likely not to have external craft stalls and instead will concentrate on class stalls with requested teacher support, as with the recent Summer fete.

Summer Concert – 11th July

Jill Horner has requested a bar for the event and some helpers. Rachael F and Nic H have volunteered.

Next SASA meeting: TBC in the new school year