**Friends of St Mary’s meeting Wednesday 15th October 2014**

**Present:** Rebecca Hoise (Rec), Ruth Sande (Yr 4), Jayne Curry (Yr 2 & Yr 5), Helen Currie (Yr 1, Yr 3 & Yr 6), Lucy Stewart (Yr 3), Clare Salmon (Yr 1), Mary McMillan

Parents new to school were welcomed and the appeal for parents from each year group resulted in at least one parent for each year group*. “A reminder for those parents who responded by returning their slip would go out with the minutes so that they would be able to come to future meetings.”*

Mrs Currie confirmed that the funds raised by the Friends, accrued over 4years, have been spent on the fabulous new furniture from Community Playthings for Reception class.

In previous years, the funds have gone towards the hall staging, sound equipment, partly funded the ball court and funded two arrangements of equipment which make up the trim trail. All of which are very expensive items, but add to enjoying a quality experience in school.

Barclay’s bank continues to operate a scheme where a parent employed by them can help to organise an event which will enable any income to be matched.

It was thought that HSBC and Lloyd’s Bank might also run similar schemes if parents who work for them could come forward and support The Friend’s.

**Suggestions from those present included:**

* Eduvoice: a scheme where parents would be asked to complete research questionnaires on a regular basis and funds would be donated to the Friends as a thank you.
* Regular Coffee mornings for parents which could be organised on a class by class basis throughout the year to share the load.
* School logo and images on T-Towels, Cups, Mouse Mats, etc
* Art Club exhibition
* Sell “Winter Warm Hot Chocolate at Christmas events and productions.
* Christmas Raffle – raises significant funds
* Christmas Bauble decorations
* Christmas CD/DVD involving absolutely everyone
* Mother’s Day Sale
* Family Ceilidh
* Have a Ladies Night, ( beauty treatments/demonstration, quiz, music, wine etc)
* Sponsored events
* Sports Day
* Dads and Kids’ Day
* Family Bike Ride Summer Term; hopefully recruit the support of Bike it Ben (This would be in addition to the one organised by John Green for dad/granddads to support Ollie’s Army).

Mrs Curry listed the most likely for the current academic year onto a calendar to see what the coverage looked like.

**Decisions taken:**

**Autumn Term**

Film Nights before October half term

Dress down – non uniform day each half term

Christmas Raffle, School Music CD, Christmas Baubles

200 Club ongoing

**Spring Term**

Dress down – non uniform day each half term

Event for Dad’s and Children (Construction) probably afternoon , ending at 5.30 or possibly a Saturday?

Ladies Night (pamper, nails etc nibbles, wine music and girls quiz)

Cake Sale

Mother’s Day Sale

200 Club ongoing

Dress down – non uniform day each half term

**Summer Term**

Family Ceilidh with Pie and pea Supper

Family Cycle Ride (Possibly Bike it Ben)

200 Club ongoing

Dress down – non uniform day each half term

Sports Day –

This plan gives the Friends an opportunity to plan in greater detail at the meetings throughout the year. So please come along when you can: **next meeting Wednesday 26th November at 7pm, Gibside Hotel.**

**Easy Fund Raising**

[www.easyfundraising.org](http://www.easyfundraising.org) which will enable anyone who shops on line to access this website before placing any order.How it works: easyfundraising is the simplest way to raise funds for your good cause. You shop online with your favourite stores and you raise money at the same time. It's that easy. There are thousands of well-known retailers including [Boden](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/boden), [M&S](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/marks-and-spencer), [Argos](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/argos), [Vodafone](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/vodafone) and many more. The retailers love supporting good causes and will donate a percentage of your spend to our cause when you shop with them through the easyfundraising site. Firstly, [register yourself for free](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/register) and tell us which cause you want to support, our cause is *Friends of St Mary’s RC Primary School Whickham,* it's completely free. When you've registered, you're ready to shop and raise money! Simply click on the retailer you want, then shop as you would normally. When you make a purchase, easyfundraising will send you an email telling you how much you've raised and pass the donation to our cause.