



Celebrating Diversity,  
Learning Together

# COLSTON'S PTAF NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2017

This is our first newsletter, and so we will introduce ourselves, what we do, and from now on will keep you posted on all things PTAF related. This is your PTAF, and many of you work very hard to make all our events a huge success, and by doing so, raise lots of money for your children's school. So, first things first, THANK YOU to all of you.

## What is the PTAF?

All parents and carers of students, staff and other friends (like Co-operative members) are members of the PTAF. Its objective is to advance the education of students by developing relationships between staff, parents and others associated with the school, engaging in activities which support the school and providing facilities not funded (traditionally) by the Local Education Authority.

## Who is the face of the PTAF?

**My name is Maija Lawrence** and I am the new Chair of the PTAF. My granddaughter is in Year 1 and her sister is 2 so I will be around a long time to come (not necessarily as Chair!) if dementia doesn't get me first! I am very grateful to all the staff and parents who have been so kind and welcoming and willing to help out with events after being bombarded with increasingly desperate emails. Please contact me about issues concerning the PTAF and I hope to be able to help.

**My name is Juliet Holder** and I am the new Vice Chair of the PTAF. I have been at Colston's for almost 9 years, with my eldest now in Year 8 of secondary school. I have 2 boys still here, in Years 6 and 1. I have often been a class rep, and enjoy getting involved in school related events. It is rewarding in itself, but our children also love us doing things in their school life. Anyone can get involved, so if you have ideas, time and like the idea of joining a team of other parents, please do get in touch with us.

**Sarah Brent** has volunteered to be our new treasurer, to replace the busy Mel Jady, who has been doing a sterling job. She is a chartered accountant and has a daughter in Year 1.

**My name is Meryl Simons** and I am the PTAF secretary. I have one son in Year 3 and another starting in reception in September. I've been involved with the PTAF for the last few years as class rep, organising and taking part in some fantastic events.

**Committee members:** Ali Poynter, Fiona Sweeting, Vicki Scammell, Louise Packham, Sally Reardon, Sarah Farnfield

All class reps are part of the committee too:

Year 6: Juliet Holder,

Year 5: Heidi Andrews, Mel Jady

Year 4: Donna Robbie, Jane Parry

Year 3: Mel Jady, Emily Ingle, Meryl Simons, Lucy Cooper, Laura Thurlow

Year 2: Jamey Wilkinson, Elena Antoniou, Liz Cracker

Year 1: Kingfishers, Laura Thurlow; Starlings, Maija Lawrence;

Nightingales, Fred Witham

Reception Kate Sheridan, Charlotte Hilliard, Erica Fredricksson



## Recent PTAF fundraising activities



### Ice cream selling.

We sell ice creams on both school sites from now until the end of the summer term. All proceeds go to the PTAF. Many thanks to Vicki Scammell for ordering supplies.

### Spooky disco.

Cotham hall was transformed into a spooky den for the annual Spooky Disco, organised this year by Year 3. The children enjoyed games, sweets and popcorn and lots of dancing led by the fantastic DJ. The event raised a staggering **£1252**.

"Even the year 6 boys were dancing - they haven't danced for the last couple of years so this was awesome!"

### Quiz night.

Our annual Colston's Quiz Night in February was the scene of a whole bunch of firsts.

It was the first time our ticketing made proper use of digital tools, with a very successful trial of Eventbrite to manage online sales. It was the first time in a while a team of teachers took part (a 'well done' but 'hard luck' to the team led by Alex 'RingMy' Bell). And it was quite possibly the first time the school hall had been filled with 120 adults passing oranges using only their necks. Truly, if you missed it, you missed out.

It seems appropriate that the quiz was won by a team of (mostly) first-time Colston quizzers too. Hats off to the team that knew most overall about spices, emojis, dictators and local parks and everything else the organisers saw fit to make questions out of. Our winners now face another first – organising next year's quiz. So congratulations and commiserations to them. The amount raised for the quiz night was an impressive **£652.70!**

### Christmas events

Christmas Fair raised **£1576**

Christmas tree selling raised **£1676** Many thanks to Donna Robbie for organising it. Donna is standing down so we need a replacement. Any volunteers?

Christmas cards raised **£176** Thank you Jane Parry for organising it.

### Bingo night.

On Friday 24th March, with tummies full of Pieminister pie and mash, it was eyes down for the inaugural PTAF Year 5 Family Bingo night. The tension built in the school hall as the bingo dabbers dabbed away, to win prizes for a line and a full house. Despite it being a game of chance there were notable multiple wins within the same family groupings, and also by the caller's son! It was lovely to see the 97 bingo players – all sitting eating, drinking and socialising together at the long dining tables. It really was an all family social event! Huge thanks to Mr Millington for providing the warm up trombone act, and for Alyssa Thomas-Hughes for DJ-ing the interval disco - a massive dance floor filler. The event raised a not too shabby **£430**, and requests have been made to make this a regular family event. Watch this space.....

### Tea and cakes.

Each year group organises a tea and cakes sale in their school hall once in the academic year. They raise about **£200** each time. The money is spent on what the teachers decide is most beneficial.

### Film night

The hall was packed on 3 February with families for a showing of The Secret Life of Pets organised by Reception and Year 1. The audience was fuelled by a healthy table of snacks supplemented by not-so-healthy sweets, crisps and popcorn and we had a magnificent raffle thanks to generous donations by local businesses. A good time was had by all and we raised **£393**.

## What we fund regularly

Librarian salary - £2850  
£1000 worth of books  
Art week - £150/class every year  
Secret garden  
A kitty of £100 for each teacher to use for their class  
Refreshments for school events  
School Christmas trees  
Year 6 lifeskills  
Hardship fund  
A £150 deposit to Filmbankmedia for a licence to show films

## What we have funded recently

£600 for books for Reception and Year 1  
£500 for Grass seed, wood chippings etc for Elmgrove site  
£300 for a Year 4 positive friendships/empathy workshop  
£328 for school football kits  
£65 for second hand Lego

## Arts week update from Mr. Millington

Arts week will be taking place from 15th -19th May. The theme for the week is Planet Earth 2. This amazing series-produced by Tom Hugh-Jones (Colston's parent) and narrated by David Attenborough features 5 episodes that each explore a different habitat and the amazing creatures that live there.

Reception & Y 1 have been allocated Islands, Year 2- Mountains, Y3 - Jungles, Year 4 - Savannahs, Year 5 - Deserts and Y6 - Cities. Each class is currently planning a series of exciting drama, dance, music and art activities and workshops with money for resources and arts specialists financed by the PTFA. The fruits of the children's labour and creative flair will be shown in an open classroom exhibition on Friday 19th May. In addition, the week will get off to an explosive start with the fabulous Paper Moon swing band who will be performing hits from The Jungle Book such as Wanna Be Like You and Bare Necessities. This amazing group will be performing at both our Cotham and Elmgrove sites. Later in the week, Mr M will be holding a Big Play where every musician in the school will come together and give their own rendition of some of these Jungle Book hits. The Paper Moon swing band will also be financed by the PTFA. With lots of planning and fine tuning still to be done, the week is nevertheless shaping up to be an incredibly rewarding and exciting experience for the children.

## Library update from the teachers

The library has been buzzing since the new books have arrived! The money generously given by the PTAF has meant that we now have some wonderful new picture books, which can be enjoyed and used as learning tools throughout all years. We have been able to buy new chapter books, including current titles that have been nominated for major book awards - allowing the children to make their own minds up about them. The new books have also been chosen to reflect and celebrate the diversity of Colston's Primary; including some lovely new dual language picture books for sharing.

The footfall of the library has increased considerably since Mr Thomson's library assembly. There was a flurry of excitement as the new books were sought out and requests for reservations made, from both regular library users and those who were visiting for the first time. This renewed enthusiasm has remained week after week, with a steady increase in library borrowing

## What projects are in the pipeline?

We have pledged £1000 for the Cotham site playground to have a quick make over (this will happen in the immediate future, and is different from the major playground plans).

The major playground redesign - plans are progressing through ongoing discussions.

## How to put in a funding request

In the first instance, please contact either Mr Bell, Kate Patience (in the office) or Maija or Juliet.

## Upcoming PTAF events

Spring Fair, Saturday 20th May

**Year 6** - Games, **Year 5** - Barbeque, **Year 4** - Bar, and overall organisation of Fair, **Year 3** - Raffle and maypole  
**Year 2** - Lucky Jars, **Year 1** - Inflatables including an obstacle course, **Reception** -Candy floss, ice cream and sweets  
**Governors** - Raffle

Also here will be Soak the Teacher, Live Music, Story Corner, Pieminister pies, Scouts running a second hand stall, tea and cakes, etc.

**The next PTAF meeting is...** On Wednesday 26th April at 7.30pm in the school library at Cotham Grove. Everyone is welcome.

