

## Chairs Report AGM 18.10.17

The PTA is set up as a charity to raise money to help provide materials, equipment, and facilities for the benefit of the children in our school. Unfortunately, school budgets are very tight and funds raised by PTA are vital. Equally important is the sense of community and the social aspect of the PTA events organised. We hope to bring together parents, teachers, staff and the wider community through events both socially and with the purpose of raising funds.

We have a constitution for our PTA which is basically a list of rules we must adhere to as a group. We will adopt this as an association tonight and it will be signed and witnessed.

Money raised is basically spent according to need. Teachers “request” equipment and resources for approval. Money is spend on topping up funds to update computing equipment on a rolling programme and we pay towards coach travel for all school trips. This is where the majority of our money goes. It saves an average of £10 per child per trip. We also use it to get extra resources to make learning that bit more fun. We get treats too such as our Christmas parties.

We have enjoyed a range of fundraisers this year.

The fundraisers like the school lottery and easy fundraising have worked really well this year bringing in lots of money for very little effort. We need to ensure take up continues for the lottery or it will discontinue.

The movie nights are popular and simple to organise. The tuck shop is a frequent small earner, which the children are enjoying.

The Christmas fair was a great event making lots of money but the organisation is intense!

Benefits to pupils – I can speak for my class and tell you we had a fantastic time in Scarborough so thank you for that contribution. The Year 4/5 class had £436 towards their residential. We have spent £400 towards the new playground. We have bought the leavers hoodies and the young voices tee shirts.

Complaints!.....You can't please all of the people all of the time. We have had a few people pointing out that we have asked for lots of money at the same time recently and others complaining that we simply do too much. Our last newsletter (thanks Sadie!) responded to some of these complaints, and I feel cleared up some misunderstandings regarding the Gala committee.

We need to ensure people understand things are not compulsory but at the same time, people must just learn to say no. It is not the PTA's intention that everyone joins in on every fundraiser but that we offer a selection, ensuring there is something for everyone.

Also, the other alternative is to stop the fundraising and then ask parents for full amounts for trips. Would people rather pay for Christmas cards and contribute £2 for a t-shirt or pay £10 for the tee shirt?

Huge thanks for those involved with the committee this year. We must formally thank Elizabeth Scott for her work as treasurer. As a small school, we really are asking the same people for money, help and support time and time again and thank goodness for those who do always support us!

When I look at other schools we are not doing any more than them, in fact in many cases we are doing less. Maybe we can look at successful PTAs? Could compare what we do with the other Federation schools.

We need to look at how we can recruit new members and ensure new parents are getting involved. Perhaps we need to look at applying for grants so that we are not asking people for money. Perhaps those not happy need to find the time to apply!

Despite all this I have enjoyed playing an active part in the PTA this year and am happy to continue raising funds for your children to have a better curriculum and cheaper trips out!

Kate Norris