

PTA NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018 – A Yearly Account

The smell of sun tan lotion liberally applied to little limbs, the panic to remember the sun hat in the morning as shoes are being frantically sought and put on, the buzz of excitement as Summer Queen draws closer and the sense of sadness as the Year 6's absorb the reality that their primary school days are nearly over means only one thing - we have come to the end of summer term and another academic year is behind us.

The PTA committee would like to share with you and reflect on the successes that have been achieved this past year, and to extend a HUGE thank you to each and every one of you who has helped to rally together to raise much needed funds for our school. Without you, it simply wouldn't have been possible. Here is a summary of what has been achieved this year.

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We started the academic year with the fabulous **Western themed 'Family Social'** which saw many families dressed up brilliantly as cowboys and cowgirls. Hay bales provided excellent seating, a delicious BBQ was set up and the bar proved to be rather popular which also naturally encouraged some fabulous dancing! The children had an excitable time on and off the dance floor. A wonderful night enjoyed by all.

October saw the **10th Frieth Hilly** take place – what an absolutely incredible event we have in our fundraising calendar. As expected, it was an enormous success and raised over a whopping £11,000!!! Without this annual event, the amount that the PTA raise would (obviously) be significantly less and we would not be able to support the school as we have done, so we would like to make a very special mention and extend an enormous thank you to **Will Richards and his team**. Your commitment to making this event happen each year in such a professional way is appreciated by everyone. THANK YOU!!!

Fairy lights, paper snowflakes, Nordic style table cloths, artificial snow, mince pies, mulled wine, gift stalls, the secret present room, Santa's Grotto – complete with Father Christmas himself and his elves! The X-Mas Factor!!!!!! It could only have all taken place at **The Christmas Fair!!** What a joy to behold, everyone was buzzing off the seasonally festive cheer and merriment that even the Grinch himself would have struggled to ignore and shake off.

The excitement was palpable and the **X-Mas Factor** certainly provided that extra sense of glee, **Missy Davies** was the lady once again at the helm of organising this hotly anticipated competition. Thank you Missy! The children look forward to it months in advance, it really is a highlight of their year. Thank you also of course to the fabulous judges! This event takes an awful lot of carefully planned setting up, so to all of you who offered up your time to help put it all together (there are simply too many of you to list individually) - we thank you all, every single pair of fabulous hands makes this event such an enjoyable success every year.

The Easter Egg Hunt in April was the first event organised by a class. The team behind the operation from Kites class rose to the challenge triumphantly, what a brilliant success!! **Jess & Nick Coombs and Jenni Sharp** led the operation and managed to smash profit expectations to raise £911! An absolutely fantastic achievement, well done – and thank you!!!

Next, it was the turn of Buzzards to organise an event and April saw many of the Mums eagerly totter into the school hall all ready for a night of indulgence. **Pamper Night! Ladies**

Night! We enjoyed massages from our very own **Veronica Shaw**, manicures, aromatherapy, jewellery by Stella & Dot, a glass or two of fizz, nibbles, dancing, and the raffle! **Laura Webb, Anya Lautenbach, Justine Harbinson** together with a certain other Mum typing this account, also supported by many other wonderful helping hands, managed to bank a profit of £698 – and all from having tons of fun! An extremely enjoyable fundraiser, well done everyone!!

Last weekend, many very lucky families were blessed with the most perfect summer weather for **Camp Night** which was beautifully organised by **Charlotte Crowther and the team in Kestrels**. Despite the unfortunate clash with the 1st Lane End Cub Camp, many families were able to enjoy the magical setting of Charlotte's parent's farm in Fingest. The camp was drenched in sunlight and there were relaxed smiles on each and every face. The BBQ was sizzling away, the children were running free to the tune of laughter, and the parents were soaking up the relaxed vibe like sunflowers facing the midday sun. It was sight to behold, and although profit is yet unknown at the time of typing, the profit of enjoyment was quite clearly evident. A huge thank you not only goes to Charlotte and her team of Kestrels helpers, but especially to her parents who so generously allow us to use their farm for this very special family event. Thank you - enormously!

The children have enjoyed three discos this year thanks to the wonderful **Steph Pusey**. Steph has carried the baton for the organisation of the discos for the past 5 years and we cannot express our gratitude enough. The children absolutely love this termly event and it can't be an easy task to organise as it is ultimately three discos in one night! Steph, you have been an absolute star and we want you to know just how much we have appreciated your hard work and dedication. You rock! Thank you for the last 5 years! The lovely **Jess Jonzen** has willingly agreed to over Steph's position from September onwards, thank you Jess! Along with the discos, the children have also enjoyed the privilege of two **Film Nights**. **Sarah Tedder**, it is you who we owe much thanks to for organising this enjoyable treat for the children, they look forward to it so much and we are so grateful to you for heading it up. Thank you! Another massive thank you must also go to **Scott Pash** who so kindly offers up the space in his church for us to hold it. It is the perfect space for this event and we cannot thank you enough for allowing us to use it. Thank you very much!

Summer Queen has yet to take place at the time of typing, but dare I say that the forecast is looking good and the children are bursting with excitement. This event is led by the school with the invaluable support of **Sarah Tedder** and **Jenni Sharp**, the PTA would like to thank you all in advance for organising this momentous occasion that is steeped in Frieth history and tradition. We cannot wait to see all of the children dressed in their 'Sunday best' providing us all with their class performances, and the Year 6's taking their moment to shine as they dance around the May Pole – which for this year is brand new thanks to the parents of the Year 6 children as they have chosen to gift it to the school as their leaving present.

Such a lovely thought and generous gesture, thank you parents!

How much have we raised and what have we provided for the school this year?

The balance at the start of the academic year was c.£18,000, with all of your amazing help and effort throughout the year we managed to generate another £14,000 to that! The total amount requested by the school and given since last September was an incredible **£26,000!!!!** This is money that has been generated by us all, and all of it has gone back into the school to benefit the children. If there's ever any incentive in lending a hand for a little

bit, for the setting up, the taking down, the trips to Asda for supplies, the shift behind the stall, the ticket selling, the BBQ, the decorations, the planning, the advertising, the hunt for prizes and sponsors, it is with the knowledge that all of your help raises funds (actual money!) that is used by the school.

So what has it been spent on?

This astonishing amount has been able to provide the school with following;

- The refurbishment of Owls toilets - (**Melanie Sharpe** – you are an absolute diamond!! A massive thank you to **Janine Turner and Zoe Bater** for assisting with the painting on a Saturday!)
 - A new floor for the school hall
 - New tables for the hall
 - A new table and new chairs for the library
 - An educational trip to RAF Hendon
 - The visiting Pantomime
 - Christmas lunch for the children
 - Reading Eggs
 - Athletics
 - First News Subscription
- Travel expenses / coach journeys for days out
 - Twinkl – online teaching resource
 - New fridge
 - Coding
 - New iPads

The money that will be raised from the Hilly this year will all go directly to the cost of the new and improved play area and forest school which, if you were able to see the plans at Sports Day, looks absolutely amazing!! The children are so excited! Another huge thank you to **Mel Sharpe** again for that one!

Imagine *not* being able to provide these things? The children having to go without school trips, online resources, new play equipment, iPads, newly refurbished areas within the school, festive fun in December, no extras full stop. It is up to all of us to do our best to make it happen, and that is what the PTA is all about. Working together, each and every one of us, to raise funds that the children will benefit from. Money doesn't grow on trees, right?

You will have already worked out that the closing balance now stands at c.£6000, considering that we went into last September with a healthy £18,000 makes us, the committee, rather worried. We haven't been at such a low balance for a very long time and we always need to have funds in place in case of emergency. So, looking ahead, we are hoping to make next year a record year for funds raised, with the addition of the May Ball, and possibly with some other very exciting extra events, we need to make it our mission to raise as much cash as we possibly can. We know that together we can do it!!

If you have managed to continue reading to this point then you are doing brilliantly! 😊 Not too long to go! 😊

Bertie, Richard and I are still fairly new to our role as Co-Chairs of the committee, together with the wonderful Lisa Martin and Leah Cabbage (the experienced ones), we are a new team leading the way. We don't know everything (well, Lisa and Leah probably do ☺), in fact, we are still very much learning, but we are committed to trying our very best. This account is a round up of the whole of the past year so I am writing about a lot of events and monies raised that were done so under the FABULOUS leadership of the previous committee. Please stand up **Emma Wharfe, Laura Webb, Sarah Tedder and Lisa Martin.**

You ladies deserve more than a medal for all of your hard work and dedication. Your enthusiasm, positive attitudes, contribution of time spent making the events happen, and not forgetting your infectious laughter will always be remembered. You gave up evenings, weekends, social events and much more to ensure that the events went ahead and ran smoothly. We simply cannot thank you enough! You still continue to support us hugely and for that we will always be so incredibly grateful. Amazing women!!

We obviously have to extend an enormous thank you to **Mrs Reid and all of the teachers** who support us and work with us in so many ways. We often ask for them to give up some of their very precious spare time for meetings and events, and we know that this is a sacrifice for them as they too have their own families back at home. We would like you to know just how much we appreciate your support and co-operation, it makes our job so much easier when we can work alongside the staff with such unity. Thank you for all of your support!!

Ending on an exciting note, we are very happy to announce the most recent winners of the **100 CLUB!** Each month a number is pulled out of a hat and the lucky winner wins some money! At present, we have 20 members (the prize is £1 per member per month), so our lucky winners have each won £20. As we get more members signed up, the prize pot increases. We could very easily get up to a £100 prize fund if you all sign up! If you haven't already got numbers and would like to be in with a chance of winning, please contact Bertie Bayliss.

MARCH – JULIETTE DUST
APRIL – JULIETTE DUST (Again! Well done!)
MAY – ANDY WEST
JUNE – LEAH CUBBAGE
JULY – ALISON TAYLOR

Well done to all of you!

It is impossible to individually name each and every one of you who has helped in any way, shape or form over the past year, but please know that we know who you are and that we simply cannot thank you enough. Brilliant parents, brilliant children, brilliant teachers, brilliant school. Onwards and upwards!

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER HOLIDAY!!!! YAY!!

Warmest wishes,
Juliette, Bertie, Richard, Lisa and Leah

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER 3RD – FRIETH SHOW – If there are any volunteers wishing to run a stall on behalf of the PTA please do get in touch.

SEPTEMBER 21ST – New Parents Lunch

SEPTEMBER 28TH (tbc) – Family Social

OCTOBER 7TH – Frieth Hilly!

OCTOBER 14TH – Table Top Sale

NOVEMBER 24TH – Christmas Fair

MAY 18TH 2019 – MAY BALL!