

PTA news special

Did you know, if you are part of the St Peter's school community you are also automatically part of the PTA - teachers, helpers, parents, grandparents.....everyone! ***In the same way that it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a PTA to support a school.***

Hello!

As we come closer to the end of another school year, we are sliding towards six weeks of sunshine, happy days and fun on the beach - OR perhaps more likely, average weather, days trying not to kill each other, and lazy days on the beach - or is that just me?! :D

This year, the PTA made a conscious choice not to push too hard for funds, or to go after one 'big project'. We felt that parents had given lots of time and money making big things like the library and the play equipment happen. Frankly, we all needed some down-time.

Saying that, thanks to you all, we still made a significant sum of money and we still had some terrific events! In fact, in terms of the 'core' committee, I think they have put in more time and work this school year than ever before. Which wasn't ideal. However, there are reasons for this and things we can do to address it too.

Money & schools

I don't think I need to tell you that the situation with school funding is frankly pants. In the past the PTA was 'the cherry on the cake' - funding 'nice' extras like school trips, treats, fancy equipment and other nice to haves. That's not going to change, but now, the PTA might have to be more like the cherry, the icing, and perhaps a little of the sponge too.

To help us prioritise our objective for the next year or so will be to: ***'To go beyond the basics, taking the strong foundations built up by the school and help them to modernise, so our kids have access to everything they need to have a fully enriched and up-to-date experience in school'.***

We will use the money we raise to help bring the school inline with the best schools in the county. For example, we will make sure the reading books align with the latest curriculum, the technology is as good as we can afford, and the kids get to experience a rich tapestry of activities.

PTA survival

We need a strong committee to make this happen. At the school we are blessed with very helpful and generous parents. However, the committee aren't as fresh as we once were! Unlike me, many of their kids are coming to the end of primary school life, and many of them have been doing it for five years plus. It's time for the next generation to rise up, just like Westlife during a key change!

I've made this sound like I'm asking you to commit all your waking hours to labeling tombola and serving weak tea. Actually, all we need is a bunch of parents willing to split the work between us, so we can all put a little in and get a lot out.

Class reps

One way you can do this is by becoming a class rep. From September each class will be asked to put forward at least one (but can be more) representative/s forward. These people will be asked to be the conduit between the committee and the parents. They will help share the details of the latest events, canvass views on activities and ensure we are representing each year group fairly.

It would be ideal if one rep from each class could attend PTA meetings (rotating it if that worked better) - that way you can be involved in the decision making and also get the latest news direct.

Other ways to help

If being a rep isn't for you - then there are SO many other ways you can help. Join up to Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile and select our PTA as your nominated charity. This means we get some pennies whenever you shop. You could attend our events and take part in activities, OR you could volunteer once or twice a year to help take the load off.

Lastly...

We know school communications can be overwhelming and we appreciate that you are all busy people, with teachers, clubs, work, hobbies, volunteer roles pulling you (and your cash) in all directions. All we ask is that in the current climate, that if you can support our PTA's effort, we promise in return to put on fundraising activities that are about coming together as a community, as much as they are about raising much needed money.

Hopefully see you at one of our events soon. As always feel free to grab me on the playground or email me at budleighpta@gmail.com.

Thanks team,
Laura, PTA Chair

Ideas to look out for in 2019/20: Aquathon, Football Funday part 2, quizzes, film night, FIFA tournament and the rest of our regulars, including Christmas and Summer fayres, and the chocolate bingo.

