

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School
Parent Teacher Association Newsletter
May 2018

We are now in the final term of the current school year, so it is a good time to update you on what progress the PTA has made in terms of raising funds for the school. We are in the home straight in terms of our events for this year, with just a few events left and our attention is turning to the biggest event of the year, the fabulous Fatima Summer Fete! This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and a successful fete can really boost the PTA funds and in turn, benefit all the children at the school. We really hope we can count on your continued support for our last few events, and we really pray that the weather is kind to us this summer!



We hold an Annual General Meeting in September each year, when we look at what we would like to fund in the forthcoming school year – a mixture of requests from school for funding specific items and the activities the PTA funds every year. Some of this money has now been spent and below is a list of how we have supported the school from the money raised from PTA events.

- **£2100** for **class trips**; depending on the overall cost of the trip, this might cover the entire cost, so parents often do not need to contribute any more money for their children to have a great day out.
- We have allocated **£2000** to spend on IT equipment (£1000 that we planned to spend in the last school year was a carry forward from 2016-7 and a £1000 donation this year). This has enabled the school to buy **7 new 32Gb iPads and covers**, bringing the total number of iPads funded by the PTA in the last few years to **22**.
- **£600** for an **automatic electronic defibrillator** (AED), for use if anyone on school grounds suffers a cardiac arrest. Schools are recommended to have one on site, but the Department of Education does not provide any funding to buy one. The defibrillator was installed in September and is now available for use in an emergency (we hope this never happens!). It is located in the junior corridor behind the main hall, outside Year 6's classroom.
- **£600** for the **Christmas pantomime** (oh yes we did!) and **class Christmas parties**.
- **£325** for **Health for Life** and **playground equipment**.
- **£250** for the **Year 6 leaver's party**

All of this money comes from your generous support of PTA events and we would like thank you for your help. However, there is always a little more you could do, and no PTA newsletter would be complete without a plea for help.....



Help!

The PTA is run by **volunteers** who generously give their time and energy to fundraise for the school; all profits go back to the school to benefit all the children – as the list above clearly demonstrates.

Every event we run to raise funds requires organisation – planning prior to the event, buying supplies, arranging licenses, plus a small army of people to actually run the event. For a school disco, we usually need about 12-15 people to safely run it and make it enjoyable for visitors and the volunteers. For the school fete, our biggest fundraiser of the year, we tend to need about 40 volunteers. You have probably noticed the same small group of people who run our events; they cannot always help at every event, but can usually be relied upon to help during the year. All of them have at least one child at the school, and often bring spouses/partners or older children to help

as well. Their contribution is vital, and we would be unable to run our events without them, but they still need help! There are about 160 families whose children go to Our Lady of Fatima School... someone must be able to help...

Would you consider helping the PTA?

We know that everyone is busy and going to meetings in the evenings can be difficult, but being on the PTA isn't just about that. We need people to help in lots of different ways:

- Setting up or clearing away after events (especially the summer fete!)
- Buying/donating raffle prizes or tombola prizes
- Baking a cake or helping to sell cakes (also, eating PTA cakes!)
- Helping to run a stall at a school disco or the school fete
- Helping to run an event like a sponsored bounce in school hours
- Being one of Santa's helpers at Christmas time
- Face painting at a PTA event
- Counting money in school hours for Christmas cards or other PTA school events like the sponsored bounce

Perhaps these aren't your sort of thing, but maybe one of these is:

- Are you good at advertising/promotion – could you help organise a programme for the summer fete?
- Are you in corporate hospitality – could you get us an amazing prize for the summer fete raffle?
- Do you drive a white van – could you help us to move tables/chairs at the summer fete?
- Would your employer donate a prize for the summer fete? Could your employer provide match funding for raising sponsorship?
- Would your employer donate building materials for a minor construction project in school? Do they do any community outreach that could provide labour?
- Do you or any of your relatives make amazing cakes or jam that we could sell at the fete?
- Could you or anyone you know arrange for a signed football or football shirt for a raffle?
- Do you know someone famous who could open the school fete (*maybe you are?*) or someone in fancy dress?

Maybe you like admin, meetings and minutes – all our events need at least one or two people to be super organised, and we also need a **secretary** for 2018/19 school year.

In a nutshell, there are lots of ways you could help the PTA and the more help we have, the better the events are and the more money we raise for the school.

Remaining PTA events for the summer term 2018:

25th May: Sponsored Bounce and PTA Cake Sale

Infant and Junior playgrounds

Please make a cake and bring it into school on Friday 25th May – it is the start of half term, so an excuse to celebrate!

22nd June: PTA Film night

School hall: 3.30pm -5.30pm.

Film to be confirmed; more details will be on a flyer in your child's book bag closer to the date.

7th July: School Fete

School playing fields: 12 pm -4 pm.

The big one, our main fundraising event of the year – we need all hands on deck for this event to be able to go ahead, so please get in touch if you can help; even an hour of your time would be a huge help, as there are so many things to sort. If we don't have enough volunteers for this event to run safely, we might have to cancel it and that could lose us thousands of pounds of income – money that we can spend on many extras for your children.

Many thanks for your continued support.

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