

St Illtyd Primary School
AGM
Chair's Report
January – December 2018

Welcome and Introduction

Another very successful year! Well done everyone and thank you.

We've had some new faces join us which really helps with everything from decision making, planning and, of course, the actual running of the events.

Events and Activities

We managed to continue to run all our usual events, three discos, Mother's and Father's Day gifts, Easter Bonnets, Summer Fair, Christmas Concerts, a Christmas project and I think the highlight was a visit from Santa himself. And we threw in an extra challenge of our first Movie Night for quite a few years.

Discos are one of our best money-making guarantees. All three were well attended and we managed to grab enough helpers to run all the stalls we wanted to on the night. Ideas for novelty items to sell for this year are what's needed now.

Mother's and Father's Days were just crazy. On both days we struggled to supply enough stock to meet demand. Again, ideas for gifts, especially for Dads, are needed. This year we plan to increase the cost from £1 to £1.50. Hopefully this will help us to find quality gifts that both kids and parents are happy with.

The Easter Bonnet Workshop has always proved successful, but is very labour intensive and we run it as a "not for profit" event. For this reason, we have decided not to continue with the event for the coming year, as the number of people needed and the planning and effort of organising outweigh the benefits.

The Summer Fair went well. I think it is well established now for being held on the Friday afternoon after school. We had lots of support from teachers to run the stalls which was truly needed and also from some of our school governors.

This year there are plans to see if any parents want to buy a table/stall to sell their own items and also to make the most of our new outdoor area, including activities such as wand making and s'mores. Phil has also volunteered to do axe throwing but I haven't passed this through Mr Hardy yet!

The Movie night was very well attended. A massive thank you to all the parents who were around to help and supervise. Lessons were learnt about crowd control and we have ideas to take future events forwards – one being bring your own ear defenders!

The Christmas project was hard! Profitable, but hard. The idea of Christmas cards was well received. It needed to be started earlier than I'd anticipated and intended, the teachers needed lots more support to meet the deadlines, and the organisation of the monies and order forms was enormous. I think for the future we need to realise the difficulties many parents have with filling in forms and handling money. We need to have a better system for processing the orders so that any discrepancies can be highlighted and dealt with before they get lost and mixed in with the other orders. Saying that, I only had to deal with two mistakes and there weren't any complaints!! So, I'd call it a hard-earned success.

The Christmas Concert week was amazing. We organised the raffle slightly differently this year by drawing winning tickets at each concert. This seemed just as profitable and negated the need for obtaining a licence. We also did well selling sweets and chocolates alongside the tea and coffee refreshments. Reindeer dust did not seem as popular this year, so this could be taken into consideration next year.

Funding and Projects

One of the main expenses for last year was the refurbishment of the playground markings, which was completed at the end of the summer.

Since September, attention has been on developing an outdoor area around the cwtch and pond, complete with nature areas, a fire pit, pizza oven, mud kitchen, log seating and raised beds. The PTA have agreed to further support the funding of this project as it develops.

Money was also spent on Key Stage 1 equipment and resources for enrichment groups.

Each year the PTA fund a present for each child at Christmas, supply Christmas party food and party hats at the Christmas dinner. Rather than decorating a grotto and each child queuing to see Santa, this Christmas we arranged a visit from “the real Santa” who spoke with all the KS1 children in an assembly, then visited each class. Although there was cost to this, everyone concerned agreed it was money well spent.

At the end of the school year, Year 6 all received a Leaver’s Year Book paid for by the PTA and enjoyed a Leaver’s buffet at the end of the Summer Disco. Last year the PTA organised the Year 6’s Leaver’s Hoodies, although this is not a profit-making scheme. In September it was decided to change the Year 6 Hoodies from “Leavers” to “Class of”. Once again this was organised by the PTA, although no profit was made. This year I suggest that, rather than being organised by a member of the PTA, perhaps a parent from year 6 could volunteer to take this on, which would free up the PTA to focus on the run up to Christmas.

We have also purchased some much needed replacement gazebos to be used at any PTA event, but which can also be used by teachers during lessons.

Going Forward

Plans for this year include bringing more parents on board by increasing the communication in a termly newsletter about what the PTA are planning and achieving and what funds are being spent on.

We need to be committed to maintaining good standards of practise in line with our Code of Conduct and ensure that all members are DBS checked and have Safeguarding Children training as necessary.

The committee could also consider holding some meetings in the evening to enable other parents to attend who can’t make it during the day. This will bring in some fresh ideas and new faces.

We really appreciate the generous support from parents, attending each event, spending money and donating gifts.

And finally, I’d like to thank everyone for all their hard work and efforts. We are an amazing team. We manage to pull off some fantastic events making the money which supports our school by providing them with all the extras that make our school extra special for our children.

Helena Cook

St Illtyd PTA Chair

February 2019