

Huntley C of E Primary School PTFA AGM 2020/2021

Written by Heidi Walding, Chair.

AGM Date: Thursday 30th June 2021, 8.00pm, Red Hart, Blaisdon, Gloucester, GL17 0AH

Welcome everyone, thank you for attending the 2021 AGM.

Welcome:

It certainly seems like a long time ago that we had our last AGM via Messenger and we were all mid lockdown! I think everyone shares the same feeling that it really has been the most unbelievable year. Whether it has been a terrible or wonderful experience, it certainly has been a time that none of us will ever forget.

Objectives:

The objectives of the PTFA are:

- to organise fundraising events and activities and to make these as much fun as possible
- to involve as many people as we can
- to provide additional financial support to enhance the learning of the children
- to access funding and grants on behalf of the school

Committee:

We have an elected committee who manage all aspects of the PTFA on a day to day basis. The current committee consists of:

- Chairperson – Heidi Walding
- Secretary – Jo Rich
- Treasurer – Carl Garbett
- Teacher Representative – Ella Curtis (Head Teacher)
- Ordinary Committee members – Amy Cholefko, Ruth Credland, Caroline Matthews, Katherine Hawkins.

Over the years, the joint efforts of this team have led to some incredible levels of fundraising and some fantastic school events. We have lost two ordinary members this year (Rachel Payne and Lucy Green), but I would like to thank them for all their hard work, commitment, and ideas during their time on the PTFA. Whilst the core team is strong and well established, we are now looking for input and ideas from members new and old who are also willing to help implement them, and in so doing, support our school. If you do have any suggestions these can be made at PTFA meetings, by email, or by finding one of us at drop off and pick up.

Whilst we hold meetings approximately 6-8 times a year, the AGM is the PTFA's only formal meeting of the year covering committee elections, and the Treasurers Annual Financial Report. Before we commence these formalities, I would like to take few moments to extend some thankyou.

- Firstly, thank you to the members of the committee who, despite many other commitments such as full time jobs, children, husbands, pets, family life, illnesses and many other things getting in the way, they always manage to pull together and just make things work! This especially goes out to Jo Rich and Carl Garbett as Official Committee Members, I know their PTFA workload is huge and without both of your efforts, running the PTFA would be a much more daunting task.

- Further to the committee, we would like to of course thank Mrs Curtis. We are extremely grateful for her continued support and input, and just making herself available to us - answering hundreds of questions after or during each meeting!
- Also to Mrs Mason, for her patience, sense of humour and general brilliance, her efforts to back up our plans by sending messages to parents, collecting raffle prizes, selling tickets and everything else that she does behind the scenes does not go unnoticed.
- A very special thanks must go to Justine & Seb Marlow (and Willy & Wally) for their extra special efforts at Christmas. Dressed as Father Christmas, his elf and his rather 'odd looking' reindeers, they provided the children with a wonderful day of fun, chocolate lollies, extra Christmas cheer and smiles all round.
- A very big thank you must be said to Clive Gardner at Huntley Garage, who very generously donated £2,000 to the PTFA. This was gratefully received as it came just at the time when we realised that our largest fundraiser Founders' Day, which normally raises approximately £2,000 would have to be cancelled. This donation filled what could have been a very big financial hole in the PTFA income for 20/21.
- We have also received many generous donations from local businesses, who have all been individually thanked. It goes without saying, without all the PTFA helpers, who generously bake, man stalls, lend equipment, sponsor, donate and contribute, there would be a huge decrease in PTFA events and in turn – funds raised for the school, so 'Thank You!'

A summary of last year.

As I'm sure everyone can appreciate, PTFA fundraising has been very limited over the last 12 months and although school remained open and teachers worked as hard (if not harder than normal) other than keeping the lottery going and organising bags2 school collections, a lot of our smaller 'bread and butter' events such as cake sales, uniform sales etc were not carried out. We as a committee did not feel it appropriate or safe to attempt this type of fundraising during the last 12 months due to concerns about the current financial climate and more importantly respecting worries over the health of loved ones. We hope that everyone understands and respects this decision. We did, however, manage to get a few contactless and virtual events in place to help bolster the funding for the school where it was safe to do so. Carl Garbett will provide a full breakdown of funds raised in the Treasurer's Report, but here is an overview of the events organised over the last 12 months.

- April/May/June 2020 - The Easter Raffle was due to be drawn at the beginning of April and as the first lockdown was forced upon us, sales of the 200 square raffle was bought to an abrupt end. Prizes for the squares that were sold, were handed out much later in the year once school re-opened. Sports Day was cancelled.
- July/Aug/Sept 2020 – Founders' Day, cake and ice cream sales were all cancelled. A Bag2School collection was arranged. The very generous donation from Gardner's Garage in Huntley was donated.
- Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 - we held a movie afternoon in class bubbles, serving popcorn and drinks. There was a Bag2School Collection and we had to get inventive at Christmas! As well as the usual Christmas Card & Gifts service and the Luxury Hamper Raffle, we also managed a spot of foraging and sold an abundance of wreath making kits. This was enjoyed by many and seeing everyone's creations was fantastic. It was also a wonderful way for us all to get together virtually and feel the spirit of Christmas. In addition to fundraising we also hosted the free Christmas Reindeer event in the playground.

- Jan/Feb/March 2021 – Katherine Hawkins kindly supplied sample kits and hosted a wonderful virtual Neal's Yard Pamper Evening over Zoom. We also purchased an Easter Egg for each child and provided a free Easter Egg Hunt in the playground and even had a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Funds Spent

Our Treasurer will detail specific projects and amounts spent in the Treasurers Report but to briefly summarise some of the larger projects we have funded this year include:

- A full carpet clean in the school in May 2020
- When the second lock down was announced we purchased enough headphones, to enable all the Key Worker children to successfully join in with the Microsoft Teams Classes in their respective bubbles during school hours.
- Just before Christmas, the existing sound system broke. This was replaced to allow the school Christmas 'bubble' plays to go ahead and be filmed.

What the future holds...

Finally, We are hoping that during the next financial year, we will slowly see things returning to some level of normality and hopefully we will be able to introduce long awaited events such as Founders' Day and Spectator Sports Day back in to the school events calendar along with the smaller but equally important smaller events that help bring the children and school community together.

Thank you to you all for allowing me to be your Chair for another year, it has been both a pleasure and an honour.