

Welcome letter- PTFA

Friday 18th September 2020

Welcome to a new school year here at Newbottle and Charlton School from your Parent, Teacher and Friends Association. A particularly warm welcome to our new Reception parents and carers and any other families who have joined the school, since last term.



The PTFA have met already this term and it was lovely to see lots of people at the meeting, including some new faces. We met via Zoom, which is a new thing for us, but seems to be working well! It helps everyone to attend who wants to, and keeps the meetings short!

When you join the school, you automatically become a member of the PTFA. Please get involved if you are able, in whatever capacity you can. If you cannot make it to meetings, you can always volunteer to help at our events or do something behind the scenes - baking, shopping, planning, admin, wrapping etc. All offers of help, gratefully received and as this is going to be an unusual year, events and fundraising will have to be different, in order to keep everyone safe.

We have gone through our usual timetable of events to see what we can still run and what needs to change under the Covid-19 restrictions. We still want to put on some lovely events for parents, carers and children, and need to raise vital funds for the school, but of course we have to work within the law.

So, some events have been tweaked to make them Covid-19 compliant. We are planning a remote sponsored cycle ride, to take place over half term. Friday film night will return, with children kept in their school bubbles and a snack provided. There is also talk of a quiz night over Zoom for the grownups. Unfortunately it will not be possible to run the Christmas Fayre, but Mr Smith still has lots of festive fun planned for the children which the PTFA will support. Perhaps you could think of some low key fundraisers that you could organise, which help to raise money for the school?

We are keeping an open mind as to events after Christmas, with fingers crossed that the situation has improved and we are able to go ahead. We will keep you updated as to what's going on and how you can take part.

We have decided to be careful with the money we have in the bank, so that we have the funds to be able to support the school again, in the event of more school closures. We are supporting the purchase of online platforms and programs, which can be used to keep in touch with school, should this happen again but can be used for other things if not. So this means that the PTFA shed, bike and scooter store and the 3D printer are on hold for the time being, until we know what the situation will be.

The next meeting of the PTFA is taking place on the evening of **Tuesday 6th October at 7:30 via Zoom**. This is also our **AGM** and is when the key roles within the association are voted in. Both myself and Sarah Alexander, our treasurer are stepping down, after several years in the roles. Time to make way for new people and new ideas. If you fancy the job of Chair, Treasurer or secretary, then please do have a chat with me or one of the committee members to see what it entails.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions for fund raising ideas, that you would like the Committee to consider, or would like to help out, please email me on: vanessakelly@hotmail.co.uk, or alternatively come along to our next meeting.

Vanessa Kelly

PTFA Chair and mum to William and Martha in year 4