

Charlton and Newbottle Primary School, PFTA AGM

Report from Chair



2018/19 was a busy and action-packed year for Newbottle and Charlton PFTA. We started the year with the very popular Sponsored Cycle Ride around the playing field in Anyho. This is a great event as we hold it in one of our feeder villages and also the children are doing the majority of the hard work themselves. It's lovely to see their determined little faces as they cycle or scoot as fast as they can.

A new one for the PFTA this year was making our own apple juice! With links to harvest, this was a real community initiative as we collected apples from around the village and beyond. Two big car loads of apples turned into 200 bottles, which was a bit of surprise, but I am pleased to report that we have sold all by about 20 of them. That means we have made about £230 profit on the apple juice sold so far with another £65 possible if we sell the rest. This is something we should do again, but maybe leave it a couple of years and definitely proof read the label before it's printed!

We have continued to run our regular events which the children all enjoy, film nights, winter disco, Bingo, Mothers and Father's Day shop etc. We tried something new for the Mother and Fathers' day shops this year – making a more personal gift. The pressure is on to come up with something new for next year!

Christmas time saw the traditional Christmas Fayre, wreath making, nativity photos and refreshments.

The New Year started with a bang as the teachers and staff performed in Cinderella Rockafella, which the PFTA supported by selling the tickets and doing the refreshments at the performances. It was an amazing effort by all involved and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Spring activities included the Mother's Day shop, Child Enterprise Fayre and Maytime in Aynho.

By summer, activities were ramping up for a last push for the school year. We had the ever popular Mini Mud Run, this year with added mud, followed in the same weekend with Open Farm Sunday, which this year was in aid of school. Another busy weekend was the slightly damp sports day bbq, followed by a very busy Charlton Village Fayre where the PFTA committee and staff served hundreds of tea and cakes. We were busy raising money right up until the last week of term, selling the refreshments at the traditionally baking hot Summer Concert.

It all sounds a load of work – and it is, often carried out by a relatively small group of hardworking and dedicated people. People who care about our school, our community and want to make sure that school is able to afford all the added bits and pieces that make school fun, engaging, enthusing and thriving. I would like to thank everyone who attended a meeting, baked a cake, served hot dogs, designed flyers, sold tickets, wrote letters and minutes, posted on social media, wrote risk assessments, counted out small change, made phone calls, sent emails, paid bills, swept floors and washed up. The list goes on and on and I thank you all.

I am sure that Sarah, as Treasurer will cover the details of what we have raised and what it was spent on, but needless to say it was a great year and we have raised a record amount.

We have even bigger plans for this school year, changing things around a little and trying to share out the workload in a different way. We have a new look Christmas Fayre, which we are rebranding as a community event, hoping that lots of Charlton residents will come along and join in.

Please support our activities in whatever way you can and encourage others to do the same. Its hard work, but its rewarding work and we are, hopefully a friendly and inclusive bunch of volunteers who are always looking for others to join in too.

One very special member of our PTFA is sadly leaving us this year, as her daughter has now left primary school. Julia has done so much for the school since Lottie and Olivia joined when they moved into the village. Julia wasted no time in getting stuck into village life and that includes here at school, where she has been fully involved with the PTFA, including a lengthy stint at Secretary. Julia, I am not quite sure what we are going to do without you – but I am pleased to report that we did remember both films for Friday night's film night – just! Thank you for all that you have done, the hours you have spent at the school gates, pestering, cajoling, selling and promoting. Thank you for showing us how it all works, so that we can carry on, hopefully without too many disasters or last minute panics. I look forward to serving you a cup of tea and a slice of cake, next year at the village Fete, which you might actually get the chance to look around.

Vanessa Kelly
PTFA Chair 2018/19