

PTA AGM – CHAIR REPORT
WEDNESDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2023

Introduction

To begin, thank you for attending this AGM for Shipbourne School PTA. It goes without saying that the people in this room, and several others who can't attend this meeting, have a lot to be proud of over the past year of fundraising. Shipbourne PTA has evolved since the disruption of Covid, into a cohesive group of parent volunteers, who demonstrate commitment and enthusiasm to our children's school. We do so because of a shared ethos of having pride in the school, wanting to enhance the experiences of our children whilst at Shipbourne School, being grateful of the nurturing learning environment that the staff facilitate, and wanting to 'give something back'.

How is our PTA run?

Mostly, through committee meetings, event planning meetings, WhatsApp and Facebook information sharing. A core committee who work closely with the Headteacher and a loose idea of having Class Reps.

Key successes

Undoubtedly the summer fete and firework night as our biggest fundraising efforts. This year saw a mini PTA group also raise a decent chunk to bolster our Firework profit, by selling hot chocolate at the Round Table Firework Event.

School events throughout the school year; school discos, film nights.

Alison Brown – endlessly serves cakes to our ravenous kids on a Friday afternoon, alongside periodically selling the second hand uniform stock.

How the kids have benefited

Our PTA has allowed families to spend social time together as a community, outside of school day. With fun and memorable events; Summer Fete (Morris Dancers, Reptiles, Fire Engine), Bonfire & Firework night, September Social, end of term playground stay and play.

The funds have been used to create enrichment opportunities and activities, such as the Christmas Bauble decorating and First Aid workshop. Their learning continues to be enhanced through the purchasing of resources and equipment, most notably this year a significant boost to the school's technology and music provision. The PTA funds supplemented some of the costs of installing the 'cabin' as an additional learning space. There have also been treats along the way; Easter eggs, Christmas gifts from Santa, ice creams at the pantomime. Furthermore, thanks to parent effort the PTA has brought special dates in the school calendar to life; visits from the Easter Bunny, Pudsey Bear and Father Christmas.

Lessons learnt?

There is little appetite for certain events- Not enough interest in the idea of a PTA Quiz Night to make the effort viable. Subsequently it did not go ahead. Will see next week if the Christmas Wreath Workshop has been able to drum up more enthusiasm...? The last day of term in May, saw a family stay and play session on the playground with ice creams and homemade lemonade, this was a lovely way the end the term from a school community perspective. The last day of the school year, Leaver's Picnic, unfortunately was unable to go ahead due to extreme temperatures.

Investment into PTA equipment – 2 pop up gazebos purchased, lesson learnt about their use during firework event.

Plans for next year

Repeat events- Summer Fete, September Social, Bonfire and Firework Party
Tried in summer term- End of term family stay&play social

New event- collaborative sponsored walk event with Hadlow School PTA (April)
School events – discos (?)
Expenditure – tbc

Skills/Help required –

Support with the newsletter. I feel that a termly newsletter is a really lovely way to share reminders, event success, share appreciation, etc. However, it is a task I struggle to keep up with. If anyone wishes to help with this, please do come forward.

Sponsored walk – sub committee. Alison and Juliet have offered to help support this event, other offers of help are very welcome.

Supporting the school in other ways, such as attending prospective parent tours, spreading the word of our school to friends, family, social media.

Myself as Chair

I don't think anyone else has been elected/elected themselves to stand for the position of Chair. I have held the role since July 2021. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of coordinating the two main fundraising events. The Bonfire & Firework Party in particular, year on year continues to go from strength to strength. The Summer Fete, whilst it is never going to match the fundraising efforts compared to firework night, as a PTA we provide the school community with a wonderful, family event and the benefit of raising a reasonable sum for the PTA funds. Outside of these two main events, I struggle to be an effective Chair person. It's no secret that my personal life is somewhat going through a challenging chapter, which alongside full-time employment, I confess to not being able to commit to the role as much as I would like. I will continue to stand as Chair until such time that another member wishes to take over, when that time comes, I will support the future Chair in whatever way I am able, in particular with the event organisation.

Thank you's

Nick Brown as Treasurer, has been invaluable in his calm and efficient management of the PTA funds. I was quickly reassured when I took on the role of Chair, that I didn't need to worry about the money side of things. Nick has been a solid and reliable committee member for several years, and has quietly supported and encouraged me along the way. He will be greatly missed when he becomes an alumni parent.

Mrs Daters, who honestly does half the job of PTA chair when my absence is problematic. We/I rely on her more than we should as a PTA. Thank you for guiding the process of this AGM, which has been long overdue, and for all the ways you support us, and encourage staff within the school to support us.

The core group that pulled together to make Firework Night happen, simply put, an incredible team! Over 60 volunteers across the weekend, but the ones who put their heart and soul, and many, many hours into the event - the PTA is immensely grateful.