

## **Alban City School PTA Chairs' Report: Jan 2016 – Jan 2017**

It gives me great pleasure to produce this report detailing the many achievements of our dedicated PTA committee here at Alban City School. This report covers the period of my chairmanship from January 2016 until January 2017 (please note this report does not include financial information, this can be found in a separate report from the Treasurer).

### Structure & Organisation

PTA meetings continue to be well attended each month offering an opportunity for idea sharing, sub-committee updates and feedback as well as keeping class representatives informed. Sub-committees are working well, [being used](#) in different ways depending on the event requirements. These groups have proven to be an essential organisational tool, particularly where event planning overlaps.

Class [representatives](#) continue to be extremely valuable [in supporting](#) all PTA activities, ensuring each class is aware of all events, whilst helping to sell tickets and recruit volunteers as needed.

Throughout this year we have discussed at the committee meetings the need for some possible structural changes and the creation of more roles within the PTA committee. These changes are necessary to implement now as our school population has grown and the number of events we organise has increased significantly over the last couple of years, resulting in a much larger workload. The new roles suggested are: 2 x Pupil Events Leader (one for each phase); 1 x School Social Events Leader and; 1 x Community Events Leader. These are flexible and could change by event if necessary.

### Communication & Information

Communication between the PTA and parents / carers at the school continues to work well, thanks to the class representatives. The increased use of the Yellow PTA Post Box during morning drop-off [has also helped with](#) selling tickets for events and recruiting volunteers. We are hoping to shortly introduce a second yellow PTA post box, near the car park entrance to allow greater accessibility to parents who use ABC and / or XYZ

The PTA newsletter is produced each term. We trialled issuing this electronically, but many parents didn't appear to read it this way, so it will remain a paper issue for now. The PTA pages on the school website are updated regularly to show forthcoming events, as well as to upload newsletters, meeting minutes and other relevant information. We will continue to look at ways of making these pages better utilised and develop the offers from local business partners further.

## Events

The PTA still continues to try new events, whilst enhancing [and](#) adapting existing events following suggestions from the whole school community. We have undertaken even more events this year! Thanks to the dedicated support of the PTA, school staff and our fantastic parents, each and every event has been successful, particularly in continuing to strengthen our enviable school community.

This year, the PTA [have introduced](#) very popular Odyssey Film Screenings, a hugely successful Spring Disco for Phase 1, a popcorn evening in PJs for phase 2 children, we laughed quite a bit at our first Comedy Night and, we held our first Car Boot Sale. We also bought back the hugely enjoyable wine evening and tried out Happy's Circus! This was all in addition to a very busy schedule:

- Quiz Night
- Valentines' Bake Sale
- Spring Disco for Phase 1
- Popcorn Evening in PJs for Phase 2
- Car Boot Sale
- International Food Sale
- Wine Evening
- Popcorn Evening for Phase 2
- Odyssey Screening of Zootropolis
- Summer Social
- Summer Fair
- Happy's Circus
- Meet the PTA
- Autumn Bake Sale
- Mum's Night
- Halloween Disco for Phase 2
- Odyssey Screen of Hotel Transylvania
- Comedy Night
- Christmas Fair
- Popcorn Evening for Phase 1

In addition to these events, the PTA have continued to hold monthly coffee mornings, including a Macmillan fundraising coffee morning each September. We also introduced afternoon tea for those who work on Friday mornings and when the weather allows, we hold ice-lolly sales on a Friday afternoon.

Looking into 2017, we will try our best to maintain this schedule of activities. We are also speaking to PTAs at local schools to see if there are any events we could hold together.

## Supporting the School

The PTA exists solely to support our school, whether helping to build and strengthen relationships with the school [and](#) wider local community or, fundraising to provide equipment, activities and other resources to further the education of our children.

This year has been quite exceptional as the PTA was able to raise significant funds for the school. [Further details are set out in the separate Treasurer's report, but these](#) funds have been used to assist in the development of the new playground, in particular we paid for the outdoor classroom, the play equipment and the netball hoops. We were also able to give the school funds to purchase large quantities of books for the school library and [to](#) discount [pantomime tickets](#) for many children at the school. We paid for the African Drumming and Bollywood Dancing activities for the children, which took place during International Week. Further funds will be made available to the school in due course and the PTA will continue to be guided by the School Head in the [best way to use them](#).

#### Corporate Support & Match-Funding

Over the last year the PTA, has been very generously supported by numerous companies and local businesses, whether through [match funding](#), sponsorships or raffle prizes. Some of these include:

- Natwest & RBS Banks who, through a number of parents, have given us significant [match funding](#) at the Summer Fair.
- Frosts Estate Agents have been major sponsors of all of our Fairs.
- Coombes & Wright Mortgage Solutions generously sponsored our first calendar and they continue to support our [face painting](#) team at every event.
- Halifax St Albans have supported us with some great prizes at our Summer and Christmas Fairs.
- Aimia for [match-funding](#) school produce at our Summer Fair.
- Secret Nail Spa supported the Mum's Night once again with a very generous donation.
- Tesco Metro St Albans have generously supported both our first Comedy Night and the Christmas Fair.

There are many, many more companies who have supported us, especially [our generous](#) raffle prize [donors](#). [Our events would not be anywhere near as successful or as enjoyable without their support.](#)

To finish, I must give enormous thanks to the whole PTA team, we have become a very well oiled machine and it has been great to have welcomed so many new faces over this last year, all of whom have readily jumped on board! The enthusiasm and support has been brilliant, thank you. To Mrs Goddard and the brilliant school staff, thank you all so much for the continued support and patience. Finally, I've said it before, but I'll say it again, here's to continuing to have fun, make more friends and raise even more in 2017!

Karen Francis, Chair of the PTA