



**Clare House PTA
AGM, Wednesday 2nd October 2019**

Chair's Report 2018/19
Prepared by Donna Griffin

I have just completed my fourth and final year as the Chair of the Clare House PTA for the year 2018-2019 and it has been another amazing year working with such a fantastic committee.

The PTA has had a fantastic year seeing success with new events and continuing support with some of our old favourite ones. We continue to organise events that we know the children love and introducing some new ones. The Spooky Disco and Movie Nights were both well attended, and the children all had an amazing time. The Christmas Fayre, Easter event and the Summer fair were big hits not only with the children but with their families and the wider community. Ice cream Fridays, Bags2School, Easyfundraising and the Christmas cards continue to be popular and have helped us to raise a lot of money for the school. Our second-hand uniform keeps getting more popular and we saw the Clare House 100 Club grown to over 90 members.

I am delighted to be able to report that we have been able to donate over £19,000 to the school in the last financial year. The PTA has funded specialist lessons, school equipment and some special experiences for the pupils.

- Support for the Music Programme at Clare House – *This is one of the largest donations that the PTA continues to support which benefits all the year groups.*
- Sports day at Norman Park and transportation for all the children to the event. We also provide water for every child on the day.
- Additional laptops for the school.
- Books for every classroom in the school.
- Swimming lessons and transportation to the lessons.
- New chairs and trolley for the school hall.

Responding to funding requests from parents

- Contributing £200 to Y6 leavers party

Special experiences for the children

- Festive Dress-Up Days
- Ice creams for all the children after celebration assembly the Friday after Sports Day – to say thank you to them for taking part.

PTA Support for the school

Supporting teachers and staff in school

- EYFS Stay and Play sessions for new Reception parents and children
- Coffee morning for parents
- Helping Reception classes to elect a Class Rep and put together a class list
- Sorting Lost Property and holding second hand uniform sales

The PTA has been able to provide this support because of various fundraising activities. When we set about raising money for Clare House, we try to do it in a way that also brings something to the school community. Events are a great way of doing this.

Parents and friends' socials

The PTA hosts events such as Quiz Night, Wreath Making Evening and Race Night that bring together parents, their friends, other adult family members and staff at the school for light entertainment...this year raising over £2000 (after expenses) between them.

Fun for the kids

Each half-term we try to run an event with the children's enjoyment at the centre. These events such as Spooky Disco, Festive dress-up day, Egg Factor Competition, Film Night and World Book Day Event can be an important part of the children's school experience and raised over £1500 between them for Clare House this year.

For the all the family

Events that the whole family can enjoy are important dates on our calendar.

- Christmas Fayre
- Panto at Churchill Theatre
- Easter Event
- Summer Fair
- Fireworks with the Rotary Club

This year saw our biggest Christmas and Summer Fairs between them we raised over £15,000.

Sponsorship and advertising

The PTA Committee work hard to try and build relationships with local and parent businesses. We are able to provide sponsorship and advertising opportunities and have been delighted with the response to our efforts over the last year. This year we secured a year's sponsorship deal with Elmes Homecare and this will continue for Christmas 2019 events.

Communicating...

The PTA work hard to keep parents, children and staff informed and on board with our initiatives. We are grateful that we are able to contribute weekly to the school newsletter, and we're pleased to now have a dedicated area on the school website. Our Facebook page has a growing membership and is an informal way for parents to network online and see what's going on in school. The Clare House Twitter feed has proved incredibly effective for attracting interest in the sponsorship and advertising opportunities. Each year we help the new reception classes put together a class list and find a class rep. This helps the class to come together and provides us with another way of speaking to parents.

The sum of our efforts...

I am pleased to announce through the combination of all the various streams of revenue the PTA has been able to raise a total of £32,000 after expenses. We are extremely proud of this achievement which builds on last year's effort and we hope it continues in the upcoming years.

Plans for this year...

- We have promised £10k of funding to support the music programme.
- We will pay for the Clare House Sports Day next summer to be held at Norman Park Athletics Track and transportation to the event.
- As always, we would like to be able to respond to requests for support from Jane Holland, her team and parents when they come to us.

How will we do this...

The PTA will continue to run our popular events, such as the Quiz Night, the Spooky Disco, and the Christmas Fayre. We also like to try new events to keep you and the children all interested. We will continue selling ice-creams and collecting for Bags2School, and we will work hard to try and secure sponsorship and advertising wherever we can.

We will regularly promote Easyfundraising and 'Ways to Give' which we hope will continue to grow and provide additional funding for Clare House and we are always on the lookout for new funding ideas.

Thank You

This brings me neatly onto the fact that the PTA aren't able to do any of this without the help and support of a great many individuals, and before I finish, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Firstly, a huge thank you to all Clare House pupils for making it all worthwhile and for being so well behaved at our events.

Thanks, as ever to all the parents, nothing would happen without your support. By coming along to events, giving donations to Bags2School and to both the Summer Fair and Christmas Fayre, by volunteering, posting brochures to homes advertising our Summer and Christmas Fairs, contributing financially and giving pocket money to your children for ice-creams!

We also can't thank enough all the staff at school who are all incredibly supportive and who volunteer at our events. The wonderful ladies in the office Sharon, Ruth and Fleur whose help and support make our lives so much easier and to the teachers for allowing us to use classroom time for initiatives like Christmas cards and their actual classrooms for some of our events, and to all the teaching assistants that pass envelopes to the School Office for us. Anna Clough and the Clare House governors who are always happy to lend a hand at many of our events. And finally, an appreciation goes to John Budden and Jane Holland who have helped us to achieve a really collaborative and mutually supportive relationship between the school and PTA.

I would like to thank personally all the members of the PTA committee, they are truly an amazing bunch and it has been a true honour working with them all, they are committed to make the PTA a great success and raising lots of money for Clare House.

A huge thank you to the PTA husbands and wives who are always on hand to help set things up, make items, selling ice creams, put up with PTA meetings, running BBQ's, storing numerous amounts of items and basically being without us for most of the time. Lastly our children who put up with us dressed as elves or witches and never knowing where we are at an event, but they are the reason why we all do it.

These last six years on the PTA (four as the chair) have been amazing and I highly recommend joining. I am leaving on a high as this was my best year as chair and helping to raise £32,000 for Clare House. It has been an absolute pleasure to be the chair of this PTA and I wouldn't have been able to do it without the committee both past and present and I have met some wonderful people doing it.

Lastly, I'd like to say a few words of thanks, this year we said goodbye to six wonderful members of the PTA Anna Maher, Bonny Sullivan, Edith Goakes, Ellie Forbes, Mary Manning, Rachel Carroll and Sandra Younsi, who are all stepping down this evening. Each one of these ladies has worked tirelessly to make this PTA a success and they will all be dearly missed.

Thank you and good luck to the PTA committee for 2019/20.