

CHAIR REPORT

PTA AGM Nov 2023

Background

The PTA faced some additional challenges over the past year, with changes at the school affecting the certainty of in-school events. Thankfully we were joined part way through the year by Miss Peckett who supported us in our fundraising efforts, and we were able to still put on some much loved events such as the discos and film nights. Despite the challenges we've encountered over the last few years we have continued our fundraising efforts to provide the added extras for the school, ultimately the things that will enhance the learning and enjoyment of the children who attend Silchester. While we are likely to see spending priorities change for the school with the new leadership team implementing a new strategy, this continues to be our core value to ensure the pupils of Silchester are at the heart of everything we do.

Fundraising

Christmas is always an exciting time for us and this last year was no exception. While the Christmas Market continued to be a staple event, the fire at the pavilion in the August required to rethink the Grotto. Thankfully we were encouraged to run this alongside the village Christmas Tree lighting and with the addition of some sweet bags and reindeer food for sale this turned into a fantastic winter wonderland. We also had some additional funds raised through a Christmas quiz and not forgetting the ever popular Christmas Cards which led to a successful Christmas bringing in just over £1,400.

Bags2School has continued to be an easy source of funds approx. £600 being raised over 3 collections.

Being back in school meant the without the fear of further covid restrictions meant a much more relaxed set of Easter Discos and a film night. In addition, we were able to run another Bake-Off with our very own Prue Leith (Suzi Hoppton) judging around 40 baked goods to commemorate the King's Coronation. We also had a very well attended SGT which raised a fantastic £750.

Our two biggest fundraisers for the year came from the ever-fabulous Robin Scott and his band who put on yet another brilliant show for us in the village hall raising c.£1,500. This was followed by the Rainbow Run which seems to get bigger every year! I'm given to understand our very own set of Silchester Gladiators are already planning a waterfall and an obstacle course for next year, in addition to existing paint throwing and water guns! With the sun shining on us again this was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and raised a significant amount at c.£1,700. A massive thanks to Dave Holby-Wolinski and the team of dads for putting this event together!

Commitments

With the change in leadership at the school it has been difficult for us to align our strategic visions and unfortunately, we've not been able to donate as much as we would like however



we have still been able to help where we can and we will continue to ensure previously agreed spending will be recognized.

- £5,000 contribution towards new class laptops
- £1,500 allocated to music (to be spent in 2023)
- Art workshop

We have also helped with the transport for sports events.

Summary

Despite the cost-of-living pressures that continue to impact everyone, we have been fortunate to have such a supportive school community and we have had a fantastic year of fundraising. A change in school leadership during the year resulted in a misalignment in regard to spending. However as we enter a new school year in a much improved financial position we hope to be able to contribute to some whole school improvements and align our vision with that of the new school strategy. And don't worry we have a wish list already written!

As always we couldn't do any of this without the fantastic parents and other members of the local community. However as many of us enter our 7th year at the school our attention turns to succession planning, ensuring new people, ideas and expertise are fully utilized, allowing us to explore new avenues of fundraising while continuing to ensure the children are at the heart of everything we do.

Rachel Dean

Silchester PTA Chair