

CHAIR REPORT

PTA AGM Oct 2022

Background

Despite the fundraising challenges the PTA has faced over the past couple of years we have continued 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 our activities and the priorities for the school changed during the last couple of years, this continues to be our core value even if this will now be achieved through a more blended fundraising approach going forward.

Fundraising

After a reimagining of our fundraising events in 2020 & 2021 we were able to return to some normal Christmas activities this year, including the children's Christmas market and Santa's Grotto. Although the grotto was much anticipated the fear of a winter resurgence of covid resulted in a small loss being returned. Christmas cards continued to be a fan favorite but with costs increasing the glass decorations saw a reduced uptake. Left over decorations will be used this Christmas with The Glass Duck agreeing to fire them without additional cost. We also had some additional funds raised through a Christmas quiz, a film night and a generous donation from the Christmas Boutique, which was run by a few of the Silchester mums. All in all this led to a successful Christmas bringing in just over £1,200.

Bags2School has continued to be a fundraising staple and we have had yet another good year with approx. £600 being raised over 3 collections.

Springtime saw the return of the Easter discos which were a real highlight for the children, especially those who had missed out over the last couple of years. A big thanks to Chris Burch who again gave his time for free to entertain the children and raised over £700. Another huge hit was the Jubilee bake-off which raised over £200 (as well as substantially raising the calorie intake of every parent!)

Two of our biggest fundraisers for the year came from the Silchester Dads who took full advantage of a summer without restrictions. First, they set out to beat their own world record with a 27hr continuous indoor row raising just over £1400 in sponsorship – we'll pencil them in for 30hrs next year! This was followed by an even bigger and better Rainbow Run which saw the children (and some adults) covered in paint and soaking wet running around the fields! Needless to say this was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, again raising a significant amount at c.£1300, with the super-soakers being a welcome relief in the heatwave! A massive thanks to Dave Holby-Wolinski and the team of dads for putting these events together!

Another big thanks goes to Robin Scott who, along with his band, put on another fantastic live music performance in the village hall. A fabulous evening of dancing and singing (and possibly some drinking) was had by all, raising c. £2800.



Commitments

Over the last year we have been able to support the school with some big purchases including:

- Contribution towards the Adventure Trail (playground equipment)
- New computer tablets
- New netball and football equipment

Further requests have also been received for musical instruments as well as funding to support the cost of visitors to support the curriculum – visiting artists/music activities/science based workshops etc.

Summary

Last year we continued a hybrid approach with the majority of payments remaining online or through card readers but with the added bonus of being able to provide more in-person events such as the return of the school discos. This return to a more “normal” year has really highlighted how much our events mean to the children, not only through the monetary improvements for the school but also the enjoyment they have when taking part. These events, however, could not take place without the dedicated support of the parents, teachers and local community that we are truly blessed to have.

As we enter a new school year we must remain agile by utilising the expertise and ideas that this fantastic community offers, allowing us to find new avenues of fundraising while continuing to enhance the enjoyment our children have at school.

Rachel Dean

Silchester PTA Chair