

Willow Bank Infant PTA AGM - September 28th 2016

Chair Person's Report – Alex Whitlock

Firstly I would like to say thank you to all the teachers for the support we have had at our events, we've had an amazing year and raised a record amount of money!!

We kicked off our busiest term with the Halloween disco. The funds raised from this were fantastic at £1460 which was an enormous increase on the previous year. We had some issues with the ticketing system for this disco as many parents were disappointed that their children missed out. It was always marketed as a 'family' event and because of that tickets have always been sold to additional family members on a first come/first served basis and subsequently there have never been enough places for every child to attend. As a team, and because of feedback from parents, we decided that this needed to be addressed. We came up with a number of alternative systems and put this out to parents for a vote, and the majority vote went to the ballot system. We agreed that we would trial this system and so implemented it for the spring and summer disco. This will be down the new team now to review this and decide how to move forward.

The Christmas cracker afternoon event in December was again hugely successful, it was very busy, especially Santa's grotto which we ran a little behind on but it was still enjoyed by all. We added an extra stall but other than that the format was unchanged. We raised a total of £662 for this.

The Christmas cake competition, Christmas cards and nativity DVDs together raised £418. The Christmas cake decoration competition seems to have dropped off a little in recent years so maybe a new approach may be in order to increase the profits on this. We have also talked about changing the way we do the nativity DVDs this coming Christmas to make the process easier and more cost effective.

Pantomime tickets last year raised an amazing £400 and we have this year's seats block booked and ready to be sold in November.

Moving into the spring term we started with the Valentine's cake sale which raised £142. The spring disco which was the next event was very successful, raising an amazing amount of £1526. The ballot system was trialed for this, the process was lengthier than the original system but went fairly smoothly and all children who weren't successful were guaranteed tickets to the summer disco.

At the start of the summer term we set up a new website on which tickets can be sold online. This has been an immense move forward with streamlining our processes, we also held some auctions online selling off our surplus raffle prizes. The first trial on this was the Willow Bank tea towels which was an amazing success and raised £492.

We were very lucky with the summer disco and at the 11th hour we were able to confirm that the dry weather was holding and the event was to be outside, because of this we were able to sell extra tickets on the door and there were no limits to numbers. The amount we raised for this was £2269.

Funds raised from other events such as uniform sales, sports day refreshments, clothes aid etc. equalled £691 and the fund matching and sponsorship money came to a total of: £1237.

I am absolutely delighted to say that once again we have increased our profit from last year by a huge amount and made an amazing total of £9100!!!!!!!

The school events and items that were funded by the PTA this year were:

- Folk dancing workshops
- 3 digital cameras
- Life Education bus visit
- Christmas bunting to decorate the classrooms
- Korky Paul visit
- Christmas Willow tags for all the children (from Santa)
- Martin the Puppet man visit
- Easter egg hunt and prizes
- 2 iPads
- Big Writing Adventure
- Living Eggs
- Willow tags for the Yr 2 leavers
- Leavers Breakfast
- £4,500 for sensory playground equipment

Of course I need to say a huge thank you to the amazing team that we've had this year, everyone has pulled together and worked fantastically hard. I am so proud to have been a part of it all and have really enjoyed my role as chair. Thankfully I will be leaving it in the safe hands of Vicki and Grace who I know will do brilliantly. I also need to say a big thanks to Lou, who has been my sidekick and partner in crime for the last two years, I would have completely buckled without her!