

Old Bexley C of E Primary School PTA

AGM 2020 – PTA President's Report

It has been a very difficult year for all schools and the families involved. Our PTA events were cancelled for the foreseeable future immediately after our Mothers Day Sale, which meant, of course, our fundraising was lower than we had hoped. However, we are optimistic that this year we can plan many events and activities that are in line with social distancing restrictions, raising well needed funds for our children.

We are exceptionally proud of the PTA's fundraising success this year: an amazing **£14,627** was raised after deducting expenses and overheads.

In 2018/19, Jodie and myself became joint President of the PTA, and have stayed on this year. Julie Griffith became Vice President and Julie Robinson stayed on as Treasurer. Jenny became the secretary. It has been a huge team effort this year, not only with these management roles but also due to many PTA members taking ownership of different events throughout the year. We would like to thank each and every member of the PTA for their continued efforts throughout the year.

We were able to hold some of the annual events throughout the year including Christmas Fair, Bingo Night, and many more. We also included another new event this year, Old Bexley Boot Sale, which proved very successful, even with the current restrictions in place.

Our popular Mother's Day plant sale provided gifts for the children to purchase for their parents and carers, our Book Fairs raised funds for the school libraries and the Panto group excelled themselves yet again with a hysterical performance of Sleeping Beauty.

All of our events saw great fun had by all, and were very much appreciated by the school, the children, the parents and the local community.

Thanks to the monies raised, we were able to fund several projects this year which included:

- Interactive white boards for all classrooms.
- Books for Key Stage One to support reading schemes.
- T shirts and leavers presents for Year 6 Leavers.

Committee meetings were well attended throughout the year, and we would like to thank everybody for their time, energy, support and enthusiasm. For the foreseeable future, meetings will be held via Zoom, so hopefully future attendance will be even higher.

The PTA website is still being used for volunteer slots, ticket sales, auctions and advertising our events. We hope to continue to promote this and see its use grow, as it really eases our administrative duties and frees up much needed time! We have also set up a section to donate money as and when people would like to, so we are hoping this may gradually raise funds too.

Every PTA's challenge is engagement across the parent community. It seems far too often the same faces are at all events offering their much-appreciated time and support. We need to continue to reach out for help and support not just from the school and the teaching staff but also to parents who may not be aware that they can donate just an hour or two to an event.

Yet again a huge Thank You to the staff at Old Bexley, including the teachers, office staff, caretakers and kitchen staff, for their support at various events this year. We are in constant communication with the ladies in the office regarding ParentMails, uniform drop-offs, when we can and can't use parts of the school, and they are always accommodating and supportive of the PTA and the work we are doing. An even bigger thank you to the teachers who are on the PTA: Mrs Netherton, Miss Crawford, and Mrs Grace. Although Mr Leverett no longer works at Old Bexley, he is still a key PTA member and we are grateful for all his support and the humour he provides.

Making a successful PTA requires one thing, which is your support. Helping at one of our many events, turning up and supporting the event, being a member of the PTA committee or obtaining matched funding from employers - it all counts towards the funds we are able to raise. Help is required at every level and I hope 2020/2021 is as successful as previous years, if not more! The funds that we raise and the difference that is experienced by our children is huge. Our ultimate goal is to make the school life of our children an enjoyable one that they will remember forever and set them up with the skills and experiences that will stay with them for life.

Laura Avery and Jodie ter Brake
PTA Presidents
September 2020