



Chair Report - Tuesday 21st September

Welcome to the September PTA meeting - our first of the scholastic year. We'd like to start by welcoming all of our new members. It's brilliant to have even more people on board and want to thank you all personally for giving up your time to support the PTA fundraising activity and help raise money for our wonderful school.

We also want to say a massive thank you to the whole team for all of your support across the summer to promote, organise and execute events. I know everyone thought, or hoped, you may not hear from Sarah and I over the school holidays. Instead I think smoke has been coming off our What's App Group with the amount of messages discussing our activity.

We're very grateful to everyone for all the time and support you give to the PTA, whilst having to juggle so many other responsibilities. A lot of the activity we're introducing is new and therefore hasn't been tried and tested, so means we're having to get our heads around new ways of working. Thank you to everyone for your part - no matter how big or small - as we wouldn't be able to pull off any of this without you. All the success is down to this amazing team and how everyone pulls together.

Over the summer we tried a new approach for our pre-loved uniform sale. We hosted two separate events at the start and end of the summer holiday, at the The Stable function room at The White Hart. There was a lot of organisation, muscle and sweat that went into this. It was a real fitness test having to haul heavy boxes of uniform from school cupboards, to cars, to garages, back to cars, to The White Hart and then back to school. It was an incredible success raising a great amount for our school. One lady stopped me as we were setting up and asked me what was going on. When I explained she replied "What a wonderful thing to do and great for the environment". I know we got lots of similar feedback about how much it was appreciated and how it was a great community event. We're now looking to organise a winter pre-loved sale January time before the schools go back. Well done to everyone who supported on the day.

This week the winner of the Sunflower Growing competition will be announced during a dedicated assembly. We had so many entries and pictures sent in documenting all the flowers growing and it was heartwarming to see all of the children beaming in front of their sunflowers. We pulled together a video of all the entries to share with the children in assembly. The winner will receive the Sunflower trophy which has been engraved with the winner's name - plus a grow your own kit, gardening tools with their name on too. Runners up will also receive a framed certificate. It's been such a success and we look forward to next year's.

On 24th September we will be hosting our first Krispy Kreme Friday fundraiser, selling doughnuts on the school field after school. 43 boxes were pre-ordered thanks to the superb

promotion by the PTA. We were blown away by the amount of pre-orders received in just a couple of days. We still need your help - we have about 250 doughnuts as well as gluten-free treats to sell on the day. We'd really appreciate everyone's support in continuing to raise awareness of the individual sales and are encouraging people to bring cash to avoid queues. Thanks to everyone who is able to support on the day too. We'll also be promoting our Wreath and Quiz Night events too on Friday and have the izettle contactless device on hand to take more orders.

The activity for September doesn't end there. On 30th September we will be hosting our Quiz Night fundraiser at The White Hart. We have 12 teams registered so far and need just another three to fill all our tables. Thanks to everyone who shared all of their ideas and former pub quiz content - we will be using lots of this for the evening's trivia and challenges. Local business Blissfully Young has also generously donated six £50 pamper vouchers as a main prize for the winning team. The White Hart has also donated three 'meal for two' vouchers for the runners up. For all the teams that have confirmed we will be sharing details of pizza and prosecco deals they can pre-order.

On 16th October we will be hosting another community litter pick with Ampthill Climate Change Group. We will be asking families to register and come along and help keep the streets of Ampthill tidy. We will be promoting this at the Krispy Kreme sale too.

We also launched a Christmas Wreath sale at the end of August. We will be hosting two wreath making workshops with local business Emi Floral Designs. We have sold 50% of spots and have another 35 spots to sell so would really appreciate everyone's support in promoting this to friends, family and wider community as it's open to all.

I know it's been a busy start to the year, but we're keen to keep the momentum going as many of our usual fundraising events were postponed last year. We now look ahead to Autumn and would like to discuss Nathan's Garden which we have received £300 sponsorship for from local business Amujtan. We'd also love to discuss ideas for the Halloween Disco and Christmas activity.

We're looking forward to delivering more activity together over the coming weeks and months.

Grace & Sarah