

PTFA Chairperson's Report - School Year 2014/15

Welcome to the English Martyrs School PTFA

Fundraising Activities

This is my third year as Chair, and I am delighted to say it has been another successful year for our PTFA and the school, due entirely to the hard work of a large number of people and the generosity of many more. In terms of members, I have to pay tribute to those who have supported me once again this year, every step of the way. I need also to thank the families of the PTFA members for their unwavering support, which is invaluable and very much appreciated. In addition, there was a wider group of people who could not make our meetings but who have turned up at events and helped in any way they can. There are too many to mention by name, but my heartfelt thanks goes out to you all. I would like to ask Ann Roxburgh to extend our thanks to the Parish of English Martyrs – Father Christie and the parishioners for their support throughout the year. We would like to wish Father Christie well with his new Parish. We will miss his smile and his humour.

Once again this year we have had successes with our regular fundraisers such as cake sales, film nights, Family Bingo Night, Summer and Christmas Discos and our larger fundraisers the Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar. Earlier this year we tried an Indulgence Evening, which wasn't greatly attended but proved to be a very enjoyable and successful evening raising £400. We do try to hold a variety of events aimed at all age groups in order to involve both parents and children and I would like to thank the parents and families of the children of English Martyrs for their support and hope they will continue supporting us in any way they can. If you would like to get involved in any way, join the Committee, help at events, or have a new fundraising idea, please do talk to us. This is your PTFA – please do get involved!

Where does all the money go?

After another successful year, the money raised has been put to effective use such as:

- Playground markings
- Benches for the new reading area (currently on order)
- Trophies for students, Star Child, Year 6 etc.
- Refreshments for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Sports Day
- Christmas Party Presents
- Grandparents Day
- Icecreams at the Christmas Panto
- Year 6 Leaver's Party Donation

It's not just about the money ...

Our aim is predominately to raise valuable funds to help finance items for the school; however we do place large emphasis on fun and bringing the school together as a community, encouraging family involvement.

The PTFA are very grateful for the ongoing support and guidance of our Headteacher, Gillian Deery. Gillian has worked closely with the PTFA and has also been liaising with the School Council to allow the students to have an input into where they think the money could be spent. I think we can all agree the school is looking rather splendid, colourful and very welcoming.

Looking Forward

This year we will continue to hold our regular fundraising events, but it would be really good to attempt something new to encourage families to become more involved. Some ideas for future events and fundraising are:

- Bag packing
- Boden clothing sale
- Barn Dance
- Garden produce sale
- Car Boot

Just a few, but I'm sure you may have many more. Please feel free to pass on any ideas, schemes, fundraising initiatives to the PTFA via the School Secretary or you can email me on bam.thom@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you all once again and here's to another successful year!!

Bernadette Thompson
PTFA Chair