



Newchurch Community Primary School PTA

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Chairperson's Report for 2017-2018

This year is now the sixth year events have been primarily organised by parents in each class and only recently some struggled to gather support from their own year groups relying on PTA members to step in. This is mainly for shopping and organisation as once the event starts, they are overrun with volunteers. Going forward I think this will need to be reviewed for active PTA members or core volunteers to take roles of shoppers, organisers etc.

At present we do not have the final financial report to share, however; some events have fared better than others and with the BBQ not going ahead in September 2017 due to weather, this has had an impact along with the ball not going ahead for the second time running. Again, other ideas to replace these events need to be considered.

The children were keen to get a chatty hut over the summer holiday installed, but this will now need to take place as soon as possible, once we know how much money we have available.

I am pleased that PTA members are still committed to the school, but meeting numbers have started to dwindle and we have started to see only the core number of PTA members attending. If the PTA, and indeed the fundraising of the school is to continue, volunteers do need to come forward to help at events and attend meetings.

Newchurch offers so much more than other schools in the area, as the staff are keen fundraisers for events. As in previous chair's reports, Newchurch is unique, in that it holds discos and sleep over's events solely for the children and parents to interact outside of school and to raise money. This must continue.

The highlight of the year and clearly an event that people love is the Easter Bingo which raised £323.11. This year's event was the biggest to date with even talk of needing to hold the event away from the school due to the growing numbers. We certainly don't want to come away from the school for events, but safety comes first and this year we had to turn people away. A first in my 6 years here! We have tried to accommodate with advanced ticket sales again for a quick start but tickets were pre-ordered and paid for with many more turning up to pay on the door, a roaring success and we owe this to Jill Saunders and her family for this event.

A first for Newchurch was the sale of ice-pops which was a suggestion from a parent. We sold 12 boxes over a 2 week period on certain days. The figures should show we made about £96.00 gross profit, but we think this figure has been mixed into other items, so actually showed a very poor profit, but we will ensure that this goes ahead again next year, weather permitting.

Another first for Newchurch was the May Day Community day. I am unsure of the funds raised but it was lovely to see the stall on the field and all the volunteers helping. We were the cheapest on the field selling ice cold water!

Following the May Day we set up stall at Croft Carnival with the hope of raising funds by the very popular "Culcheth Rocks" where children designed their own stones. Unfortunately this coincided with England's marvelous World Cup campaign, which meant we didn't raise anything, but don't be disheartened as many stalls suffered this year and noted it wasn't as profitable as the year before. This is something, if we get enough volunteers, we could try again.

Special thanks to Lisa Belinski for her continued significant contribution from Zumba classes held in the school Hall.

Our Christmas Fair this year raised £1365.25, a slight improvement compared to last year. This always takes an immense amount of organisation and coordination and we are extremely grateful to everyone who is involved as well as parents and families for their generosity; not only in attending this event, but also to the items brought in for dress down days. We have taken on board the feedback from parents about dress down days and hopefully will be able to spread these days throughout October and November, relieving the burden for donations weekly. Again the local and North West community came forward with donations for prizes for the event.

Succession planning for key committee members is still required with experienced members providing mentoring to new volunteers. I am keen for this to take place now, more than ever, due to key members' children leaving in 2018 and 2019.

Special thanks to Angela and Stuart Carnachon for their assistance in the PTA since their daughter transferred to Newchurch. Having a member who has the free time to committee to the PTA is key for this group to continue.

Special thanks are also expressed to the staff of Newchurch Community Primary school. They truly go above and beyond to make this school such an amazing place. They give their free time to ensure events can take place and scarily give up an evening every year to stay over-night for a school sleep over, donating profits back to the PTA. They attend PTA meetings as well as answering my endless emails and calls, so I personally am truly grateful. The children are very fortunate to have such wonderful teachers who are committed as much as the PTA are in raising funds for their enjoyment above and beyond school curriculum.

Suzanne Taylor
Chair
Newchurch PTA