



Aldryngton School PTA

Supporting your child's education

Registered Charity: no 1026094

PTA News

July 2020

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION & ENJOYMENT IN SCHOOL!

Message from the Chair;

"Another academic year over, one like no other. This is not the final PTA contribution that I would have liked to write on the newsletter as a Chair, but we need to try and appreciate the good things that we have managed to achieve this year, given the circumstances.

We had amazing results at Christmas time with the Fayre, Wrap-a-Present, Legobricks fundraising and Christmas cards making a profit of about 6.5K. We also managed to run two successful school discos & family lounges this year, five bake sales, an October textile collection and a very well attended Curry and Bingo night. Not forgetting Cash4Coins which generated £160. We managed to raise around £10k (exc match funding) before lockdown.

The money raised has helped fund the purchase of a very successful phonics programme, that hopefully will help hundreds of children in their learning journey for years to come.

Unfortunately, due to lockdown all the scheduled events like the Easter Egg Hunts, the May disco and our biggest fundraisers, Try-a Tri and Happy's Circus had to be cancelled. It is heart-wrenching as these are not just

fundraising events, they are memories that children treasure for years to come.

We were wondering how a virtual Lockdown Try-a-Tri would work and luckily Mrs Bickle stepped in and organised the event, with medals and certificates that she is delivering as I write! There were some amazing and funny entries with more than 150 children taking part and £1100 so far raised on the Crowdfunder page.

Happy's Circus has been postponed to the 22nd of April 2022, as no other dates were available before then unfortunately.

Sadly this year we need to say goodbye to an extremely valuable member of the PTA, Michaela Thomas. Her commitment is second to none and her ideas and organisation over the years have made the success that PTA are enjoying today. Michaela took on challenge after challenge and introduced and organised innovative activities and improved existing ones. She will be sorely missed by everyone.

We must also now say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils and therefore some families, we hope that you have

enjoyed being part of the PTA and wish you all happiness and success at your new schools. It is not the end of year we would have wished for but I hope that the happy memories at Aldryngton will stay with you.

We look forward to seeing everyone else in September (hopefully!) and welcoming our new Foundation pupils and their families. Have a great summer everyone."

Erika Augusti, PTA Chair

Please Note!

The PTA Officers would like to propose an amendment to point 1.4 of our constitution and are giving our members (the parents of children at Aldryngton) due notice of this prior to our AGM in October. We will be proposing that the minimum number of committee members would be three rather than four, and this will require a two-thirds majority at the AGM for this amendment to be passed.

AGM

The next AGM is on Tuesday 6th October, 7pm. At the meeting we will review the 19/20 academic year, discuss our plans for 20/21, elect Officers and fill all other roles. Please come along!



Once again, a huge thank you to Sabine for organising the special Lockdown edition of the Try-a-Tri.

Well done to all the participants, don't forget there is still time to add sponsorship via the Crowdfunder page www.crowdfunder.co.uk/aldryngton-pta-reading

Certificates and medals are still being distributed so don't worry if you haven't had yours yet.

We are currently working to be able to share all the great video entries with you all.



Select reward

If you haven't already done so please visit our Crowdfunder page and consider making a donation towards one of the Rewards, there are several to choose from. The rewards are in place of money you'd have spent at events we've had to cancel. You can make a £5 donation in place of missed bake sales, make a £5 donation if you've joined a Zoom Quiz, Bingo or Disco. Donate £10 towards missed swimming lessons, and more. Take a look! We appreciate all donations. Let's try to reach our £2k target.

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/aldryngton-pta-reading



A virtual balloon race is something we've not done before but it's a fun and environmentally friendly way of celebrating the end of this academic year whilst raising much needed funds. Buy balloons for £3 per balloon. Once purchased you can personalise your balloon to make it totally unique. Balloons will be launched at 12pm on 8th August from Timbuktu in the Sahara Desert. Using real time weather, the balloons will be blown far and wide over 7 days. The winner of the race will be the balloon that has travelled the furthest. Where in the world will your balloon end up? The Aldryngton balloon that travels the furthest wins a prize. Find our cause Aldryngton Primary School PTA - Sahara Desert Race on the ecoracing website to buy balloons

<https://ecoracing.co/user/page/505>



It wasn't possible for this year's leavers to arrange a collection but they would like to show their appreciation to the school by way of a leaving gift. They have therefore organised an online collection via the PTA's Crowdfunder page.



"The collection is our way of saying a massive thank you and goodbye to Aldryngton Staff and the PTA for everything over the years."

If you are a 2020 Leaver and would like to make a donation towards books for the school please visit the Crowdfunder page and click on the Year 6 Leavers Book 'Token' Reward. www.crowdfunder.co.uk/aldryngton-pta-reading



All the **Officer Roles** will be up for election or re-election at the AGM in October. **Current Officers standing for re-election are:**

CHAIR – ANIL MADINENI
VICE CHAIR – PRIYA GUPTA
SECRETARY – SHWETA BIST
TREASURER – DAVID SPEDDING

We realise only too well that every parent is busy so we welcome job sharing roles in the PTA. All Officer positions have been successful job shares for the past 3 years and we'd like this continue, not only because many hands make light work but also to put in place a succession plan for the next academic year. **We are therefore looking for a second Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.**



From September we will be looking for parents to fill some of the vacant roles;

- Someone to take on communications, Newsletters and PTA web pages.
- Parents to join Priya on Wrap-a-Present.
- Somebody to run the Easter Egg hunts in the spring term.
- A parent to help run Pool Club in the summer term.
- Some parents to run the 2nd hand uniform sales.
- Class Reps.

To volunteer or for more details please contact ptaofficers@aldryngtonpta.com



You can make donations to the PTA via our Crowdfunder page.

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/aldryngton-pta-reading



If you have any spare foreign currency at home please donate it to the PTA in September. The PTA are collecting anything that is or was once money and we will turn your old or unwanted money into a valuable donation. We are collecting all foreign currency new and old including old British coins and notes. The collection bucket is situated in the school office foyer.



Do you shop online?

Please register for Easyfundraising. There are thousands of retailers including Amazon and all the usual High Street shops who donate a percentage of your online shop to your chosen charity. It's simple to register then all you have to do is set Aldryngton PTA as your chosen Charity. Then every time you shop online via the Easyfundraising page you will be raising money for our school.

We have 119 parents signed up so far and have received over £3k through the scheme. If you haven't already registered for Easyfundraising, don't delay – do it today!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aldryngtonpta/>



Another way for us to earn commission from online shopping is with Amazon via Amazon Smile. Log on to smile.amazon.co.uk and select Aldryngton County Primary School PTA as your chosen charity. The PTA will automatically receive 0.5% of the net purchase price. Remember, always start at smile.amazon.co.uk for your purchases to qualify.



We all know how important it is to ensure our child's possessions are named. When buying labels for school uniform and other personal items, please use one of the following schemes. In doing so you will help raise free funds for our school.

www.easy2name.com will give us a 20% commission on all orders. Quote Aldryngton School PTA RG6 at checkout.



www.stamptastic.co.uk you can buy a personalised stamp usable on most fabrics, metal & some plastics. No more sewing or ironing on labels. Stamptastic offer up to 25% commission on orders. Just use our PTA Code RG67HR at the checkout.



Match Funding

Hundreds of organisations in the UK offer their employees the chance to boost individual fundraising efforts by 'matching' the money raised for their chosen charity.

We already benefit from match funding arranged by a few of our parents through their employers including Thames Water, Vodafone, Microsoft and Sky.

Around a third of our profit this year came from match funding so if you work for one of those companies but are not yet involved with match funding please make yourself known to us. Or if you're not sure if your employer offers a match funding scheme please contact your HR department.

For more information please email the PTA on

ptaofficers@aldryngtonpta.com