



PTA Newsletter OCTOBER 2011 BUMPER EDITION



Dear PTA members

Pour a drink, sit down and enjoy a pleasant read!

BEER AND SKITTLES NIGHT

WE WERE LITERALLY BOWLED OVER WITH THE SUPPORT AND raised £150. Would you be interested if we arranged another event like this? Let me know please email zoemoore@mac.com

LANTERN PARADE

At School ~ Friday 4TH November ~ 6.15pm

MEAL DEAL £10 FOR A FAMILY OF 4!

Don't feed the family at home come down and join us for a magical evening. Family meal deal £10 for two hog roasts, two hot dogs, two kids' drinks and two adult drinks. Come and join us for a fun torch lit procession around the village of Buckland. Bring your torches and warm clothes and your own home-made lantern if you wish. We will follow a trail around the village before returning to the school hall for some firework refreshments! We will have fun things to eat such as warm firecracker juice, sparkling hog roast and hot dogs, firework cup cakes and hot chocolate and marshmallows to enjoy! We also have some glo-sticks and flashing ring lights for sale. Traditionally this is a really fun evening and a great chance for the kids to have tea with ALL their friends on the same evening! Meet at the school gate 6.15pm. Lantern making instructions can be found on the school website and on the PTA noticeboard.

TOYS, TOYS, WONDERFUL TOYS!

Time to clear out the toy boxes. Can we have donations of good as new toys for our stall at the Christmas Fair. A great time to purchase some stocking fillers.

JOB VACANCY - Treasurer

We still have a job vacancy for a treasurer for the PTA. Nick Whitwell has been the treasurer for the past three years and would now like to apply his time to other valuable projects within the school. If you are able to offer some time to this role then please contact the school office or Nick Whitwell on 01822 855686.

Christmas Fair ~ Saturday 3rd December ~

CALLING ALL CRAFTY MUMS AND DADS

If you can help in any small way to make **simple craft items** for sale at the Christmas Fair then please liaise with your class teacher and arrange some craft activity workshops that we can do with the children. We would like to see some lovely new ideas this year so please step forward and let us know what we can make! **OR can you make biscuits chutney or jams that we could sell?**

Once again we will be having a visit from Father Christmas as he stops off on his travels to welcome St Andrews' children into the famous Santa's Grotto and of course Santa's little helpers will be flying in too. We hope to have our school choir performing and perhaps some musical instruments playing alongside many Christmas craft stalls with festive refreshments.

CAKES ~ FAIRY CAKES ~ CHRISTMASSY CAKES

Did you miss out on making an apple pie recently? Well now's your chance to bake and decorate a cake and let your imagination run wild in the **FAMILY CAKE COMPETITION**. Please bring your "Most Christmassy" cakes into school for judging before 10.45 on the day of the Fair judging takes place at 11am.

We would like as many cakes as we can for sale at the Christmas Fair so please put aside a little festive fun time and bake a cake together. We will send out a reminder paper plate for you on Friday 25th November. Bring cakes to school on Friday 2nd December so we can dash out and buy some if we don't have enough to sell.

So go on sprinkle some festive fun into the kitchen and get baking!

IT'S A MUFTI DAY FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER

Please listen to the children when they say they don't have to wear their school uniform. They are telling the truth ~ it's a mufti day all day. In return we would like a contribution for the Governor's very popular tombola stall at the Christmas Fair. Please send a little something into school on this day and leave it in the studio where a table will be provided. Please send good quality, in date items, only please!

VIEWS-IDEAS -OPINIONS

Remember that the PTA is not just about raising money it is also a good parental forum to talk about issues that concern you or your views and constructive criticism. If you would like to sign up for a PTA newsletter or be a silent PTA member and receive our minutes from our meetings then please let me know. zoemoore@mac.com

Panto tickets ~ ***Cinderella*** ~ 3rd January ~ 2.30pm.

All tickets £10.50 each. Please contact Denise Willson (Olivia and Christian's mum) to reserve your tickets on **01822 859340**

CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE TICKETS

This is one of our big events and we try and raise as much money as we can to support the school. Attached to this newsletter is a book of raffle tickets for you to sell to family, friends and colleagues. We like to ask everyone to try and sell at least one book, but please ask for more if you think you can sell them. Perhaps you could take some into work.

IN 2009 WE HAD 50 HELPERS

**Mary Mary quite contrary where do your tickets
sell at Yelverton shops with silver bells and
pretty maids all in a row rowrowwith pretty maids
all in a row!**

Mary Lowther is setting up the rota to sell CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS outside Yelverton shops on Saturday 19th November and Saturday 26th November between 10am and 1pm. Do you have an hour to spare?

**WE HAVE 1000 RAFFLE TICKETS TO SELL IF WE SELL THEM ALL WE
COULD POTENTIALLY MAKE £1000 FOR THE SCHOOL**

Reply to Mary Lowther~ Email jmfhz@btinternet.com

We also need help on the day of the Fair. Could you spare an hour of your time either during the Fair or to help with setting up or clearing up afterwards? In 2009 we had 50 offers of help. We really do appreciate all offers of help however big or small – we couldn't do it without you! Please complete the attached slip and return to the school office.

DID YOU KNOW EVERYONE IS AUTOMATICALLY A MEMBER OF THE PTA?

If you are a parent of a child at St Andrew's school you are automatically a member of the PTA. If you want to find out more, all you have to do is email me zoemoore@mac.com or turn up at our next meeting on Monday 14th November in the school staff room at 7.45pm. You do not have to come to our meetings we can keep you informed via email as we appreciate many parents can't make evening meetings. All we ask from you is a little bit of time, some support and some fresh ideas!

A very warm **welcome to Jan Hughes** who attended our last PTA meeting and after the second pint was happy to be nominated onto the 'marginally interesting' PTA team! Also a big thank you to **Catherine Sorensen** who has recently moved to the area and now things have calmed down she is offering to bring some help and support to our team and we look forward to getting to know Catherine and introducing her to some familiar faces in the school.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Are you ordering anything online? This is a free, simple way for us to raise money from everyday online shopping at the click of a button. Every time you buy something online from shops such as Clarks shoes, Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, The Body Shop or Early Learning Centre or holidays, insurance, hotels etc they give a donation to our school PTA. It's that simple so before you start your Christmas shopping please give it a thought, stop for a second, log onto **easyfundraising.org.uk** and look for the online retailer before you place your order. Top deals at the moment include 15% off at M&S with a 2.5% cashback donation to the PTA and up to £25 donation when you switch your energy provider to E-on.

PTA AGM

A very big thank you to the chair of the PTA, Sharon Mitchell, for all her hard work this year in heading up the PTA team in a difficult financial year. Thank you to the rest of the PTA team for all their dedicated hard work throughout the year and we look forward to another exciting year ahead. Thank you to all the teachers who attended the meeting and supported our recent AGM. It was lovely to get some feedback from you and we are currently working on your comments. As most parents from the school were unable to attend our recent AGM here is an abridged version of the Chair's report.

This is my first year as Chair of the PTA and I am pleased to report on another successful fund-raising year. Since last November, the PTA have organised a Lantern Parade, a wreath workshop, a Christmas Fair, a quiz night and the annual duck race. Funds raised from these events together with revenue from new and second hand uniform sales, the swimming pool, theatre ticket sales, easyfundraising, the June Fair and Royal Wedding mug sales came to a grand total of approximately £8800. The key motivation for PTA volunteers is to help raise funds to enrich our children's experience at St. Andrew's School. Each event takes a lot of hours to plan behind the scenes for which I am eternally grateful to each member of the PTA.

This year we have purchased or supported the following items – visualisers, video and digital cameras, enrichment week, the external fire/security door, pool maintenance, swimming caps, wormery, storage cupboards, cream teas at the Windows event, refreshments at the Peace Child performances, the Year 6 Leavers Party, Year 6 Leavers sweatshirt logos, School Council match funding for playground equipment, books, sports kit (bags and balls) and we have contributed almost £4000 to the diocese to release the devolved funding. We have also committed to spend on the following in the coming financial year – benches, engraving, pool maintenance, a further wormery, a pool cover, a water urn, finishing touches to the amphitheatre and a candy floss machine.

I would like to thank the PTA Team for all the work this last year, particularly to: Jo Guilor, Secretary - for taking minutes during meetings, producing agendas and keeping us all well informed continuously and for the numerous cakes provided at events and meetings; Zoe Moore – for producing the PTA newsletters and ensuring PTA news is publicised around the school and around the local areas; Nick Whitwell – for being the PTA Treasurer, a role which he undertakes very well and keeps a good eye on the purse strings; Kay Facey and Kathy Griffiths – for being the Catering Queens at our events, always in the kitchen producing anything from cakes to hog roasts! A big thanks to the pool team also. The PTA is responsible for running the swimming pool and our PTA pool rep is Heidi Brodribb. Heidi organises the Resus Courses, the pool rota and the swimming lessons. Thank you for all your hard work. Running the school pool requires a lot of maintenance and I would like to thank the entire maintenance team lead by Nichola Williams, deputised by Kay and John

Facey. On the team are Tim Alexander, DanialGilling, Andy Gargett, Sue and Dave Timmins, Tracey Brown and Kathy and Trevor Griffiths. Nichola will be stepping down from her role as Pool Manager next spring and I would like to add a special thanks to her for all of her hard work and endless hours working to ensure the pool is always kept clean and safe for our children to use. Nichola will be handing over her knowledge and advice to Kathy and Trevor Griffiths who are going to take over the pool management next spring. Thank you to them for taking on this important role. Thank you also to Tracey Brown who regularly sells second hand uniforms in the school hall or playground to raise funds for the PTA. Also, thank you to Esther Rookes for co-ordinating the sales of new uniform. Big Thanks goes to Denise Willson for continuous hard work selling theatre tickets. Thank you to Caroline and Crispin Jordan for organising and building storage cupboards for PTA catering stocks. Thank you also needs to be go to Mary and Jim Lowther for their help with the PTA. Mary has already commenced work with preparing the Christmas Fair raffle and together they are always looking out for possible grants that St. Andrew's School may be able to benefit from. We have a fairly extensive list of Friends of the PTA without whose help we would not be able to hold the larger events, we are also very grateful to have them on-board. Their help is invaluable. There are lots of ways to help – selling raffle tickets, baking cakes, helping before, during or after events or donating prizes. Each and every member of school staff is very supportive of the PTA work and I would like to thank Sarah and everyone within St. Andrew's School for their efforts at events.

We say goodbye to Camilla Gee, AlliEynon and Trudi Massey as PTA Committee members and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of the time and work they have contributed. We welcome Kathy Griffiths to the PTA Committee and thank her for already taking on large roles within the team.

Each year an audit of the accounts needs to be completed and I would like to thank Inna Baldwin and Simon Murray for their assistance with this.

We have lots of ideas for future fundraising events including asking local business(es) to sponsor sports kits, a Christmas present swishing event, a fashion Show, a quiz night, a Murder Mystery Evening, a Family Cinema night at Yelverton, a KS1 Easter disco, an 80/20 sales board and school merchandise e.g. tea towels, jute bags, mugs.

The difficult financial times we are currently living in may impact on fund-raising events. With this in mind, the PTA need more than ever the continued support from parents and teachers to ensure it continues to be a successful and fun team to be part of. The purpose is to enrich our child's education whilst at St. Andrew's School. With a rise in capital projects this can impact on the amount spent on enrichment and the PTA will need to have a strategic business plan in the future to generate significantly more funds. If you have any thoughts and ideas regarding the PTA or you wish to join the PTA please do come along to one of our meetings or speak to a committee member, being a Friend of the PTA may be a good starting point! Thank you for all of your support over the past year and we look forward to another exciting year of fund-raising ahead.

NEXT PTA MEETING

The next PTA meeting is on **Monday 14th November at 7.45** in the school staff room, we'll be carrying out the blind taste test of mince pies and mulled wine for Carols Round the Tree.. Any news or information for the next PTA newsletter please send to zoemoore@mac.com

Selling raffle tickets at Yelverton ~ please circle the times you are available

Sat 19th Nov	10-11am	11-12pm	12-1pm
Sat 26th Nov	10-11am	11-12pm	12-1pm
Name:			
Telephone Number:			
Email Address:			
<p>Please return this form to the school office ASAP or email with your reply jmfhz@btinternet.com</p>			

Help on the day of the Christmas Fair ~ please circle the times you are available.			
9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1
1-2	2-3	3-4	4-6
Name:			
Telephone Number:			
Email Address:			
<p>Please return this form to the school office ASAP or email with your reply denise@will23.eclipse.co.uk</p>			

