

Layston First School PTA Newsletter

Forthcoming Events

19th Jan	Year 2 Cake Bake
5th Feb	Panto performance of Hansel & Gretel by Buntingford Dramatic Society Tickets available Jan 2011, see Steph
11th Feb	Children's Disco
12th March	Family Bingo Evening
18th March	Mad March Hair Day for Comic Relief
tbc	Easter Hat & Mask Design Competition
tbc	Easter Egg tombola

Welcome to the PTA Newsletter for the Autumn Term 2010. It's our chance to keep you up-to-date on events and fundraising activities, to let you know what events are planned for the near future and let you know how funds have been spent.

Since last September the PTA have organised and held several events. Each event requires careful planning and behind the scenes preparation and we hope you have enjoyed the fruits of our labour. Our events started as the Year 4 and Year 3 classes held their annual class cake bakes. Competing for the new Cupcake trophy the events were spectacularly successful raising £120 and £160 respectively. Thank you to all the parents and carers who donated cakes for sale and to the organisers for their hard work.



Our next event was a fantastic Quiz Night in October which raised over £700. Thank you to all those people who supported the event as we had 13 teams and 93 people in attendance which was just brilliant. We thank our superb Quiz Master, Paul Russell, for his continued support and Debbie and Matt Taylor whose hard work and planning ensured the smooth running and success of the event once again.



We are hoping to hold our next Quiz Night in May next year, so there's plenty of time to get your team together and swot up on your specialist subject!

Volunteers are often needed to help man stalls at our events. If you are able to help, even if only occasionally, we would love to know and are grateful for any offers.



Some of our recent purchases

The PTA have recently donated a new post box for the children to use as they post their Christmas cards to each other. The box was handcrafted by dad, Bryan Strachan, and we hope that it gives the children lots of pleasure, as they post their greetings, for years to come. Collections of Christmas cards will be made daily until the end of term, and distributed accordingly.

The PTA also donated a further £1000 to the school library for the purchase of fiction books. Mrs Cooper chose an excellent selection of titles which were displayed in the school hall, and are now amongst the shelves for the children to enjoy.

Last term the PTA also financed the purchase of t-shirts for the school speed stack team. The team now look very professional as they enter new competitions.

Look out for details of our 'Phil' the Bag Textiles recycling days and help raise money for the school.



The autumn term also saw the production of Christmas pictures by all the children in anticipation of them being turned into Christmas cards. We had an outstanding number of orders for the cards this year which has, in turn, raised approximately £130 for PTA funds. The annual production of Christmas cards is an activity that the children really enjoy and they love to see their precious works of art printed as the family Christmas card. Thank you to everyone who placed an order.

November saw our second collection of unwanted textiles by Phil the Bag textile recycling company. The collection in June raised over £200 and we hope this terms has done just as well. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We will be looking to book another collection next year, and details will follow.

This terms biggest event was the Christmas Fayre which took place on Saturday, 20th November. A huge amount of unseen planning and preparation goes into events like this, and the Fayre was supported well by parents and locals alike. We are pleased to have raised approximately £1700 from the event, and would like to thank parents, children, staff, local businesses and traders for their valuable contributions and for helping to make the event a success. Special thanks go to Santa for visiting us and also to all PTA members who worked so hard behind the scenes and on the day.



**Children's Disco
Friday 11th
February**

A chance for your child to strut their funky stuff.

Details will be sent out by letter nearer the time.



More of the purchases we have made...

The PTA have agreed to fund the purchase of new furniture for the recently extended school front entrance. The furniture should arrive shortly and will complete the transformation of the entrance hall replacing the outdated seating and provide display and storage space too.

We have also funded a performance by a travelling theatre group to provide entertainment for the children this Christmas. Last year we funded a performance of Goldilocks by Chaplins travelling theatre and the show was enjoyed by children and staff alike

The PTA would like to say a big thank you to all parents, carers, staff and children who have supported our events over the last year. Your support makes a real difference and is very much appreciated.

**Family Bingo Evening
Saturday, 12th March**

We are hoping to hold a Family Bingo evening in March and would welcome any offers of help especially in calling the numbers. If you have experience in organising or holding bingo events, we'd love to hear from you!

An appeal for members

The PTA has recently lost a few members and we would really like to increase our numbers again. Joining the PTA can be fun, rewarding and a really good way to meet and get to know other parents. If you like helping, or would like to become more involved in making decisions on how the funds we raise can be spent, then why not join us. We meet once a month, usually on a Wednesday evening, in the staff room and would really welcome new input and fresh ideas and also welcome any feedback you are able to offer. Why not come along to our next meeting. We'd love to see you there.

If you are thinking of joining the PTA and would like to know more, please contact us or have a chat with me in the playground. Steph Strachan ~ PTA Chair