

# Layston School PTA Newsletter

## Forthcoming Events 2013

Tuesday 26th March	Easter Hat & Mask competition
Tuesday 26th March	Easter Egg Tombola
Wed 17th April	Phil-the-Bag
Wed 24th April	Year 1 Cake Bake
Friday 10th May	Childrens School Disco
Saturday 11th May	Quiz Night
Wed 19th June	Year R Cake Bake
Friday 5th July	Funtime Friday
tbc	Sports Day refreshments

Welcome to the PTA Newsletter for the remainder of this term and for the Summer term. 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.

## The school year so far...

At the beginning of the 2012/13 school year and at the request of Mrs Langley and the staff, the PTA set out to raise a targeted £4000 to purchase ipads for the school. Never ones to shy away from a challenge we have been organising and staging events to help us reach that target. We are pleased to say we reached our goal in very good time. We are proud to be able to make a difference to the way children learn and hope the ipads will be as popular the Netbooks.

We kicked off the 2012/13 school year events with the traditional Year 4 cake bake—their last chance to try and win the coveted Cupcake trophy. The event raised £107.95 and was a valiant attempt, but they were overtaken by the Year 3 cake bake which raised £110.80 and pushed Year 4 into 2nd place.

Our next fundraising event was the school disco in October. Once again the children boogied the night away to Big Steves Disco and with the help of his very energetic dancers learned some new moves and even took turns in the spotlight accompanying the boys 'out front'. A lot of tired and glowing children left the school that night. A successful event once more. Our next school disco will be on Friday 10th May—see our posters for details.

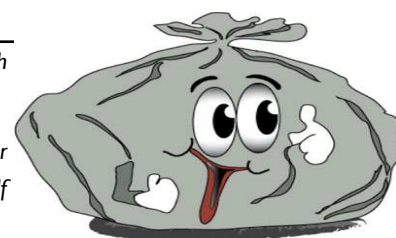


As has become tradition, the children produced their Christmas card pictures, a little early in October, which were re-produced as beautiful Christmas cards. The orders raised a wonderful £142 for school funds.

Our next fundraising event—the Quiz Night also took place in October with a new team at the helm. Julia and Mike Nicholas, along with Damien Kennedy as Quizmaster extraordinaire, entertained a packed hall. Thank you to everyone who took part both organising and participating. The huge sum of £859 was raised and gave our ipads totaliser total a huge boost.

Next came the bi-annual 'Phil the Bag' textile recycling collection which raised a further £220.

If you are not familiar with 'Phil the Bag' yet—look out for one of our posters giving details of items which can be recycled and help yourself to a bag or 2 from the stash under our notice board in the playground.



**'Phil' the Bag™**

Our final fundraising efforts of 2012 included the Christmas Fair which offered a wonderful variety of colourful stalls selling seasonal items, arty goods, bunting, bags and much more along with a super selection of sideshows to have a go on. Santa was kept on his toes and this year for the first year we introduced an 'appointment' system to allow you to plan your visit and to cut down your waiting time. Santa nearly had to pop back to the North Pole to pick up extra supplies of pressies he was kept so busy. The whole event raised £1900 for the school and once again increased our totaliser.

The last event was a collection after each of the school concerts, along with refreshments on the Thursday. These raised £250 which paid for a performance of Puss in Boots by a travelling theatre for the children to enjoy and is a wonderful way to repay the childrens efforts in the school concert.

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.

Please leave your

# Comic Relief

In a break with our traditional Mad March Hair day this years support for Comic Relief took the form of wearing PJ's to school. Thank you to all who paid to enter. £120 was raised..



**Why not take a look at the PTA section of the school website**

[layston.herts.sch.uk/PTA](http://layston.herts.sch.uk/PTA)

## Thank You

**The PTA would like to say a big thank you to all parents, carers, children and staff who have supported our events .**

If you have an idea for a fundraising event or activity why not share it with us?

Do you have any thoughts or ideas on what future funds could be spent on? What do you think would enhance the children's school experience?

Why not let us know?

# Old Mother Hubbard

**As in previous years the PTA purchased an entire performance of this years pantomime from Buntingford Dramatic Society. The performance of Old Mother Hubbard raised many a laugh and we thank Mrs Dowell (Astrophe) and Mr Alexander for liaising for us. The event raised £128 for PTA funds.**



## Our next events...

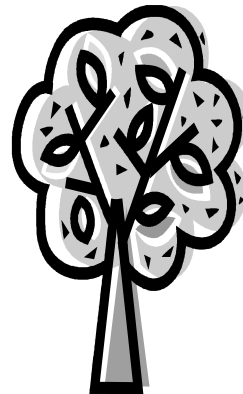
Our first events of 2013 have been the Year 2 cake bake which raised £83 and the Am Dram panto. Our next events will be the Easter Hat & Mask competition and the Easter Egg Tombola on Tuesday, 26th March. Why not encourage your child to design a hat or mask on an Easter theme? There are chocolate prizes for each winner.

The PTA would be very grateful for any boxed eggs you are able to donate for the tombola. In previous years this has been a very popular event and it would be wonderful to have a stall chock-ful with chocolate!

*Please see the diary list on the front page for details of all other forthcoming events.*

## how we have spent pta funds...

Along with the money we have used to purchase ICT equipment for the school, we have been able to contribute to other items too. To date we have been able to contribute to the purchase of the pirate ship play equipment, funded the purchase of equipment for the schools nurture group and purchased some magnifying posts for use in the Wild Wood. We also paid for the Smarties used in the recent Smarties challenge maths day at school.



On Monday, 25th March we will be planting trees on the school field. If you are able to help please let us know. We hope to involve the children too. You will need a spade, old clothes and a bit of oomph!

## It is with regret....

We regret that we have had to cancel a couple of planned events this school year. It is always hard to have to make these decisions and as such we regret that the Summer Ball will not be going ahead this year. We hope to receive continued support for all other events.

## An appeal for new members

The PTA always needs new 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.,,, we don't bite!