

AGM - Friday 4th October

It is my absolute pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the 30th Annual Meeting of the Friends of Hythe Primary School Association.

We are a group of volunteer parents and teachers who work together to make the school a better environment for our children to learn in.

We raise extra funds through a wide range of fun and creative initiatives, events and much much more.

Review of last AGM -

During our last AGM, I was elected as chair, Beccy as vice-chair, Natalie as Treasurer, Jen as secretary, and Vicky as vice-secretary. We made updates to the constitution to align with current trends and passed new policies through voting.

It was agreed to set a spending budget of £4500 for the academic year but after reviewing this policy over the last year this decision has since been reviewed. Moving forward the treasurer will give an updated total balance of our accounts at our term meetings.

Now, I'll hand over to Natalie, our treasurer, for a review of our finances for the last financial year.

Chair Report:

Reflecting on my first year as this current committee's chairwoman, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the collective achievements of our team over the past year.

As outlined in the treasurer's report, we have successfully raised an impressive £4169.26 over the last financial year, despite the challenges posed by the cost of living crisis.

The most profitable fundraisers this year were the Halloween Disco, Pizza Party, the Easter Egg raffle and despite the rainy weather, our summer fayre raised £1827.81

Furthermore, the PTA increased school funds by implementing initiatives within the bag2school scheme, hosting a Sports Day Breakfast and production refreshment stand. Although the profits were not as high as hoped, it provided an excellent opportunity to engage with parents and promote upcoming events. Additionally, we took part in community events in Hythe, including the Mistletoe Fayre and the Waterside Easter Egg trail both promoting our charity and the school in the local community and making a profit.

The organization of the Hythe Community fireworks, overseen by the Friends PTA since 2012, has now been transferred to Hythe Alive following discussions with the school. However the Friends have been approached to sell glow products at the event.

This year, our main focus was to replace the dilapidated PTA shed with a more practical Friends Hub. It has allowed the equipment to be stored in a dry, rodent free facility which will maintain the equipments life. Proposed designs are still ongoing to brighten the surrounding area with paving, artificial grass, flowers and bunting.

The PTA's other purchases include playground equipment for Year R, enhancing their play area with a mud kitchen and water wall. The balance bike ability programme continues to be a fundamental starting point for cycling and promotes active lifestyles for all the children of KS1. Moreover, the PTA supported the school's six-week rental of an on-site swimming pool for Year 3 and 4 pupils, addressing challenges with the local leisure centre. The positive impact was visible, with a higher percentage of students passing compared to the previous year.

Now I bring this 2023 committee to a close.

Elections will now take place for the next 2024 Friends committee

The nominations are:

Vice secretary: Victoria Rastall

Secretary: Jennifer Mansbridge

Treasurer: Natalie Smith

Vice Chair: Rebecca Cooper

Chair: Lois Wellman

All those to join as committee members: hands raised.

The Elections for the 2024 committee have now come to a close.

Next on the agenda Special Business

While we have seen a positive increase in volunteers to our light team, We are a small team and we still require at least 4 more full-time members as stipulated in our constitution. In order to accomplish this goal, we should aim to have recruitment drives at least twice during the academic year. A good suggestion is to prepare care packages for new Year R parents to introduce them to the friends and the support we provide.

I recognise that our meetings have been arranged at short notice which has made it difficult for some members to attend due to commitments so to insure everyone is included and stays in the loop, I have adjusted our meeting schedule as follows:

- Meetings on the 1st Wednesday at 2.30pm and the 3rd Thursday of every month at 9am.
(Subject to change)

- Once a Term meetings will be on a Thursday that's convenient with the school at 2:30pm.
(Subject to change)

Looking forward into the new financial year, we will carry on our efforts with the introduction of new fundraising events such as the Christmas Gift Shop and Christmas hamper raffle. Additionally, promoting awareness on our social media platforms of my name tags and Recycle 4 Charity ink cartridges by increasing the availability of collection boxes around the school.

These new fundraising events along side our regular events aim to increase community engagement and raise more funds to support our ongoing projects.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of this PTA committee this year and look forward to our continued support for the children of Hythe Primary school.

Thank you!