

Friends of the School and the PTA

The Friends of Llanfechain School are a PTA. We are members of pta.org.uk and are governed by the PTA model constitution. As a requirement of membership and associated insurance cover we adhere to the PTA rules and regulations. We have a committee which is a requirement of membership. Currently this is as follows:

Chair - Lindsey Richards

Secretary - Leah Watkins

Treasurer - Dawn Pickstock

As a requirement the committee must meet at least 3 times a year and hold an open AGM. In addition The Friends of the School also hold a number of non-mandatory full Friends meetings throughout the year.

Charity Status

Until now we have not been able to or required to have charity status. However this is about to change. The Treasurer's Report for this year shows that our income has exceeded £5000 and we are now both entitled and required to register as a charity. Whilst having charity status will incur more work, primarily for the Treasurer, it also has huge benefits including gift aid and being able to seek sponsorship/support from businesses.

Highlights of the Past Year

This has been a tremendous year for the Friends and all of its supporters. We have held a number of very successful events. Our most successful event was of course the Promise Auction held back in May. Our aim for this event was to purchase a Clevertouch Interactive Screen. However due to the success of the event we were able to purchase a portable screen sited in the Junior Classroom but with the ability to be used throughout the school and a static screen sited in the Infant Classroom.

In addition to this event we also ran a successful and fun Duck Race, had a stall at the Llanfechain Show and supported various other events including the Christmas Play, Summer Concert and School Prom. We have also sold school themed merchandise and this is something we will seek to continue.

Special Thanks

Special thanks go of course to my fellow committee members, Leah Watkins and Dawn Pickstock. As a team we have been able to meet regularly and with careful and detailed planning have managed a number of events. I am personally so grateful to them for their dedication, time, professionalism, input and amazing support and contribution. Thanks also go to all the Friends who have helped at and supported events, staff, parents and carers who have supported our events throughout the year and some of our sponsors including all of those who donated promises for the Promise Auction and the prizes for the Duck Race.

How Funds are Allocated

For the first time this year the Friends decided that it was important to determine and advertise what we were raising funds for rather than raising funds and then determining how they should be spent. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this has been the right thing to do since it has

garnered more support. The Friends Committee met with the Head Teacher earlier in the year to determine the school's greatest needs which also linked to key priorities in the School Development Plan. As a result we were clear on our fundraising priorities.

Future priorities were considered by the Governors at their meeting at the end of October. Early indications suggest that an overriding priority for this year will be for further ICT.

Supporting other Organisations

We decided that we would donate a proportion of funds raised from our Promise Auction in May to the Wales Air Ambulance. We are delighted that we were able to donate £400 to them. We received a certificate from them acknowledging our efforts and some of us enjoyed a lovely morning with the crew who spent some time showing us around the air ambulance. What an amazing charity!

Our Plans Ahead and How Friends Volunteers Can Get Involved

We have a number of plans ahead. These are activities and plans that are already underway:

Tea Towel sales - with an approved PTA company we have been able to create tea towels based on the children's drawings of themselves and school staff. Tea towels have now been ordered and will be delivered shortly.

Christmas Cards - in October the children created their own Christmas card designs. We will be working with an outside company to reproduce these cards professionally. Cards designed by your children will be available to purchase shortly.

School Play - we will be supporting the school by providing mulled wine and mince pies at the event. This is not a fundraising event as it will be provided free of charge. We will be publishing how you can help in the near future.

Bingo Night - We hope to run this event in January/February after the excitement of Christmas.

Fashion Show - We are looking to run this event in the Spring in association with Sissy Blu with whom we have run previous successful events.

Murder Mystery Event - we hope to run this event in the Summer - more details to come.

Summer Concert - once again we will be providing catering support for the school concert.

In addition we will be looking to other activities, perhaps a book/toy fair and the Giving Machine initiative which we will provide more information at a later date.

We are always seeking support for all our activities. No matter how big or small - every bit of support is appreciated. We will however highlight anything we would really appreciate help with in all our activities and events over the coming year in newsletters, at full Friends meetings and on our blackboard outside school. Please see any of the committee members if you are able to help.

Special Support

As we embark on taking ourselves into charity status if anyone has particular experience in this area and can support and advise our treasurer and help complete the statutory forms it would be really appreciated!