

Friends of Buckton Vale School PTFA

Chair report September 2014

The Friends of Buckton Vale currently has 15 members on the regular email list, 3 joining this academic year. This will enable us to share responsibilities, roles and hold successful fund-raising events.

All volunteers and new ideas are always welcomed!

This remains a small percentage of parents for the size of the school of 263 children. However research on other school PTA's shows this is normal.

I am grateful for the on-going support and guidance of our school representative, Dawn Lister and Head teacher Simon Hunter. We understand that the balance between school priorities, teacher schedules and PTA requests can be difficult to achieve and feel that we are all working to create a strong 'Friends' team.

I would like to thank the parents/guardians and families of the children of Buckton Vale school. You turn up, whatever the weather, ready to dig deep and spend your pennies. You are fabulous!, thank you.

Our events in the last 12 months. Sept 2013-July 2014

- Macmillan Coffee morning 22/9/13
- Cinema afternoon 18/10/13
- Class Fundraising Christmas cards
- Christmas fair 06/12/13
- Cinema afternoon 19/12/13
- Whole school disco 13/2/14
- Bingo night 28/3/14
- Summer fair 28/6/14
- Bags to school (forest school) 2013
- Bags to school (forest school) 2014
- Weekly Toasty Tuesday's

(The Treasurers report will have the finance details on)

"Notes made"

- The MacMillan coffee morning was very successful financially; The TA's did a great job on the day actively encouraging parents/carers to come in after drop off.
- The regular October disco could not go ahead as it clashed with a Tameside Inspection, So We held a cinema afternoon of which 126 + children attended. The 'no money needed' strategy at the event worked a lot better for the children.
- The fundraising Christmas cards participation was much better than I expected. Aiming to be earlier this year to hit a discount rate. Also advise parents they can buy Teddy bears direct from supplier in addition to cards.
- The Christmas Fair was a huge success, lots of families attended and we had a bar for the first time at this event.

We continually struggle to get a good number of volunteers' to run stalls; the help setting up was gratefully welcomed. Face painters and glitter tattooists are worth their weight in gold!

- 194+ children came to the Disco. Some of the adults thought the videos played especially at KS2 were inappropriate. We are in the process of acquiring our own lighting equipment to help us run the discos alongside the sound system already in place. The Glo sticks sold were a hit.
- 137+ people attended the Bingo evening. We planned this without requesting a chocolate non uniform day and it worked well. The hot food sold very well, Pizza was ordered for Vegetarian guests but was popular with non-vegetarians' too. (We broke even on Pizza, but profit on hot pot).

Again the licenced bar was popular, and profitable thanks to buying when products are on offer in the supermarket and storing them.

- The weather at the summer fair again created a challenge! The rain made it necessary to place some stalls in the hall, but it worked well. The BBQ was an overriding hit as the queue did not go down for the whole event. Also a wider range of 'fun' stalls aimed at the children with toy prizes instead of chocolate worked very well. The bar was quieter possibly due to being an afternoon event not an evening one. We paid for the Inflatable's (which were generously discounted) and charged a fee. The inflatables and the donkeys (received a % of takings) were the treat items knowing that we would possibly just cover our costs but are necessary to create a children's fun afternoon. We also received a % from Grandpa greens Ice cream but would prefer to do our own stall next time but the struggle for volunteers' goes on!. Marks & Spencer donated a raffle prize and attended the fair as a uniform promotion. We had 2 outside stalls, both selling cakes.
- Year 6 stalls were cleverly held on a different day. This enabled the children to attend the fair. They were fantastic and left their peers with a good legacy..

Thoughts for NEXT TIME!

- Earlier focus on raffle prizes donations.
- Teams to run elements of events, rota of setting up/clearing up/share stall holding.
- Year 6 Leavers presentation night.

For the second time we attended the leaver's presentation night and gave out complimentary drinks, & crisps. This again was a big thank you especially as the yr6 enterprise gave us such a good legacy. It was appreciated by the parents and is now a fixed annual event to give the children a good send off!

Donations to School

- Coaches for school trips & young Voices.
- Value card prizes.
- Forest school equipment.
- Attendance prizes.
- Christmas parties.
- Child size sofas for the Library.
- Card Badge printer. (cost shared with school)
- Continuingly committed to a financial contribution for The Robin Wood Residential trip for Y6.
- Event lighting for the Hall.

OGM/AGM

15th September 2014 at 6.30pm

In accordance with PTA guidelines I will vacate the post of Chair of Friends of Buckton Vale to allow another member a chance to put their name forward to be elected.

The final thing that I would like to say is that in today's busy world, the idea of a PTA consisting of a group of parents and teachers with **lots** of spare time to organise things is very outdated. I see our PTFA as being a more modern informal version – yes, we will need a core team who can get us organised and who are entrusted to make certain decisions but I'd like to see a much wider network of people who are willing to be on our contact lists and who will commit to help out in a way that suits them. Whoever you are, whatever your role, whatever my role, I look forward to working together to make the next 12 months an even greater success.

Sam Newton

Chair Friends of Buckton Vale.

15/09/2014

Current Committee

Sam Newton, Chair..... Vice Chair Karen Ball

David Ball, Treasurer.... Vice Treasurer Joanne Williams

Cat Walsh Secretary..... Vice Secretary Angela Byers

Dawn Lister School Rep..... VSR Jackie Brand

Committee coordinator members

Lynn Ellingworth. Barry Whitwam. Lyndsey Whitwam.

Vicky English. Clair Catherall. Jenny Lowry. Joanne Weilding.

Caroline Stevenson. Rachael Garraway. Leanne Forest. Megan Norbury

