



LOLO PTA MEETING

Tuesday, 14th October 2025

Present:

Committee: Alex Athienitou (AA) PTA Chair, Roberto Grammatica (RG) PTA Shadow Chair, Ellie White (EW), PTA Co-Secretary, Dhiraj Shrestha (DS), PTA Shadow Treasurer.

Aoibheann Foley (Y5), Carol Achen (N), Flora Cox (N, Y1, Y3), Kathy Kali (Y3, Y6), Vicky Blackburn (Y1), Hannah Foster (R), Jess Wells (R), Izzy Burgess (N), Katie Kane (R), Sueann Nnamani (Y4), Theresa Nyandoro-Sweet (N, R), Richard Lackrage (R).

Apologies:

Raf Markowski (RM), PTA Treasurer, Jessie Day (JD), PTA Co-Secretary, Charlotte Richardson (R, Y3), Elizabeth Stokoe (R, Y3), Dolores Condren (N, Y3), Donna Tooth (Y4), Lama Tadros (Y1, Y6), Evi Kartouni (Y3), Zara Nwabudike (Y4), Grainne Curran (Y6), Louise Ellis (Y6), Clara Turner (Y4, Y6), Penny Goodchild (Y5), Danni Abrahams (R), Carmen de Teramond (Y2, Y4, Y6).

1. Chair's Welcome

AA welcomes those present and thanks everyone for coming to the meeting.

Introductions

AA introduces herself as the PTA Chair, with two sons in the school, in Year 1 and Year 5. She also introduces her Shadow Chair, Roberto Grammatica (RG), who was previously PTA Shadow Treasurer. Everyone present goes round the table and introduces themselves and tells the group which year(s) their children are in at LOL.

Theresa Nyandoro-Sweet tells everyone that she is a musician and her husband is a music teacher in a local high school, so if any equipment such as amps is ever needed for the fayres, to let her know.

Carol Achen says that she has been in the UK with her family for only a year and it's taking her a while to get used to everything, including the British weather! Everyone wished Carol and her family a warm welcome to the UK, London and the OLOL community.

Aoibheann Foley mentions that she has been helping to run Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Fayre for the last four years and she has found it very rewarding and has loved being a part of it. She will soon be stepping down as she has a daughter in Year 5 and an older son now at Trinity High School. She also explains that there was a brilliant team shadowing the current team last year and they are looking forward to taking the reins.

2. Apologies

AA says apologies for the evening can be found on the OLOL whats app group. Main apologies, however, are from Raf Markowski (PTA Treasurer) who has had to go to Poland for a few days to visit family and Jess Day (PTA Co-Secretary) who has had to go on a hiatus while she deals with some family health issues.

3. Expectations Of Class Reps

AA states that the main expectation of the new reps and the reps in general is that they will communicate with parents and their year groups on behalf of the PTA Committee. This involves forwarding whats app messages, setting up rotas to find volunteers for their year's allocated stall at the Christmas and Summer Fayres, setting out the hourly slots (12pm till 4pm) and drumming up the volunteers to help fill those slots - usually 2-3 people per hour. Also being there on the day if possible to help oversee the ride and make sure it runs smoothly.

Aoibheann Foley adds that it's a good idea to pin the message asking for volunteers to the top of the whats app group. That way, people may see someone they know has filled a slot and may be more likely to join them to help out.

AA points out that it can sometimes be harder to fill the slots for Nursery and Reception year groups because as less likely to know each other. She also says that

the toy stall ideally needs four people per hour to volunteer as there is more to do than a lot of the other stalls.

It was noted that the Committee do not take volunteer slots as a rule as its members are needed to oversee the Fayre in general. However, they will always step in if needed.

4. Plans For The First Term

- **Little Recyclers Collections**

- AA says that two Little Recyclers collections have been booked in, on November 7th and December 18th. There was some discussion around whether December 18th was a good date as people will be too busy preparing for Christmas. AA said that the Committee would further discuss this and decide.
- It was noted that unfortunately, Little Recyclers has now reduced the amount it pays per kilo of collected clothes, from 50p per kilo to 25p per kilo. However, it's still worth doing as it helps to raise valuable funds for the school.

- **PTA Communications**

- AA tells everyone that the Committee has been speaking with Mrs Boon (OLOL Headteacher) about getting a noticeboard erected outside the school gates where people drop their children at school. The idea behind it is that people don't necessarily read their whats app messages and having a noticeboard means people can see when the next event or PTA meeting is, acquire QR codes for event and raffle tickets and even see pictures of the PTA Committee so they can put faces to names!
- AA adds that a whats app broadcast group is also being considered (whereby key information only about an event for example is broadcast to parents) but there are concerns about it being too much of an information overload for many people. It was decided that this would need further discussion.

- **The Christmas Fayre – (Saturday November 29th)**

- A tells Theresa that she's glad she mentioned about musical equipment and amps because the fayres are really in need of some musical ambience!
 - AA also notes that the teachers really get involved in the fayre and in the tombola, which is the stall that they run.
 - Aoibheann Foley says that the Grotto team always needs help with building the grotto's structure and if anyone wants to help, that would be amazing.
 - RG says that it's important that we try and get people to use their skillsets to help the PTA run the fayre smoothly – for example, if you like to cook, make a dish for the Family Kitchen; if you like to do DIY, help set up the grotto etc etc.
 - Hannah Foster points out that lots of companies allow their employees to take charity days, so people could potentially ask for a charity day on the Friday before the fayre to help set up.
- **Wreath-Making Workshop (Wednesday December 3rd)**
 - AA explains to those present about what the workshop entails. She says that Kathy Kali, who runs it, brings all the supplies and guides the wreath-making alongside drinks, snacks and mince pies. The workshop has been running for two years now and is always very popular. Last year, people were unable to make it because the date was finalized quite late on and many people had booked up other wreath-making workshops by then – so this year, the date was put in just after the Summer break.
- **Potential Carol Service**
 - AA says that a big focus for the PTA this year is on our community and bringing everyone together.
 - With that in mind, she spoke to both Mrs Boon and Father Martin about the possibility of putting on a candlelit carol service and Fr Martin has said it would be fine to have it at the church.
 - AA has also spoken to Mrs Coeur-de-Lion, and she is definitely happy to help.
 - AA says we need to ascertain whether Fr Martin would be happy with attendees having mulled wine and mince pies.
 - Jess Wells says we could perhaps get the Senior Choirs from Trinity High School and St Anthony's Primary School, Woodford, to come and

sing at the service too? There ensues some discussion about this possibility and how much effort would be involved to organise it.

- Much discussion is had around splitting the funds with the church. AA says Fr Martin has said he's happy for the PTA to keep any profits but a few people pointed out that some of the monies should be donated to the church's charity. It's noted that this is probably something that the Committee will come to an agreement with Fr Martin about.

5. Summer Ball

- AA explains to those present what happened with the Summer Ball last year, namely that due to rising costs, the PTA was unable to run the event as it wasn't financially viable. AA notes that this was a big blow, because the PTA lost out on around 7k of revenue as a result.
- AA also explains how the PTA makes all its money from the auction, rather than ticket sales.
- Hannah Foster explains that she knows the owner of the golf club personally, that there is now a new events team in place and the owner is happy to meet the PTA and discuss reinstating the Ball at Wanstead golf club.
- Hannah explains that she has set up a meeting on Friday (October 17th) for herself, AA and the owner to discuss this.
- AA says she's hopeful that we'll get the golf club back. **UPDATE: Following the meeting with Wanstead Golf Club, it has been agreed to host the Ball there in 2026, with a provisional date of July 11th.**
- AA says we should get the ball in the diary and start ticketing asap, probably from February – this allows people to budget accordingly and also allows the PTA to receive some monies from ticket sales to help meet the upfront costs of the Ball.

6. Christmas Fayre Sponsors

- AA explains that getting local businesses to sponsor the fayre is crucial to meeting the PTA's cost. For example, the money that comes from sponsorship can usually cover the cost of the rides.
- AA also explains that sponsors get their logo on flyers and all marketing comms about the fayre, as well as a banner on the day of the fayre, their logo

on the school's advertising banner for the fayre and also on the school's website.

- She also points out that sponsoring a community event is a great thing for local businesses to be able to put down to show corporate governance or for social tenders etc.
- Jess Wells asks if the PTA has thought about local football clubs such as Leyton Orient sponsoring the replacing of the astro turf at OLOL? (NOTE: This is a project that the PTA is considering putting money aside for over the next three years, as Mrs Boon has said the current astro turf will likely need replacing in three years' time, at a cost of £30K, so it would be a good idea to have some money put aside for when the time comes). AA explains that for this to happen, OLOL would have to meet strict deprivation criteria, which unfortunately it would not be able to meet.
- Discussion ensues about some sponsors not being willing to sponsor the fayre if a similar business is also sponsoring. Some asked if it would be possible for one business to sponsor the Christmas fayre and the other the Summer fayre, but everyone agree that this could cause problems, especially if the original sponsors is a long-standing one.

7. Christmas Raffle

- RG says that it's important that the PTA communicates to people the importance of using their contacts (friends, family or work) to acquire prizes for the raffle.
- AA explains that the raffles are passive income (i.e, the PTA doesn't have to actively organise an event to raise funds) and a big deal for the PTA coffers. She adds that we had some really great raffle prizes for the Summer raffle last term – including a hotel stay, gym membership trials, day trips to adventure parks, theatre tickets etc.
- Aoibheann Foley says that she emailed Tesco one year and Westfield and both donated a voucher to the raffle – she says we have to really try and tap into contacts and put the word out for anyone who can help with prizes.
- AA says that the PTA needs to start getting the raffle prizes in asap and that she sometimes puts a shout out on her Instagram account, which has been successful in the past.
- In response to a question about how much raffle tickets cost, AA says that bundles of raffle tickets work really well and that the platform used by the PTA

for the raffle (Raffl) allows deals such as 20 tickets for £15, which is a popular choice for parents/carers.

- Vicky Blackburn points out that she always sends the link to buy raffle tickets to wider family and friends and everyone agrees that this is a great idea and means that many more tickets are sold.
- AA also says that QR codes for the raffle go up at the fayre, so people can buy their tickets as they're walking around at the fayre. The draw usually takes place 1-2 weeks later.

8. Christmas Fayre – Stall Allocations

- AA takes those present through the year group stall allocations for the Christmas fayre.
 - Nursery – bouncy castle – castle is erected in the Nursery playground and there is no setting up or putting down for any volunteers to do, it's simply manning the bouncy castle, checking wristbands, ensuring children have their allotted 5 minutes per session and generally making sure that everything runs smoothly.
 - Reception – teacups or a carousel-type ride.
 - Year 1 – toys
 - Year 2 – go karts
 - Year 3 – cakes, teas and coffees. Cake donations on Friday at drop off.
 - Year 4 – games and sweet tombola – AF kindly donates nerf guns and also do hook a duck. AF – says whoever is in that year group, have any ideas to change it up.
 - Year 5 – snow globe
 - Year 6 – bar
- Questions ensued from some new parents at the meeting regarding the toy stall and how it's run. Aoibheann Foley explains that the PTA does a shout out to all parents a couple of weeks before the fayre to get your toys ready! Then, the PTA asks parents to bring their toys to the children's classrooms the week of the fayre.
 - AA adds that books and baby toys are not on the list of required items and that Nursery staff have the chance to come into the hall when the toy stall is set up and pick out anything they'd like for the OLOL Nursery.

- AA adds that we have a new policy now, that nobody who is involved in sorting and setting up the toy stall is allowed to buy any toys before the fayre opens at 12pm. This is make it fair for everyone.
- Wristbands – there are also questions about what the under 5s and over 5s get for their wristbands at the fayre. Aoibheann Foley asks what there is for older groups and AA explains the different things including go karts, face painting, snow globe and penalty shootout, which is run by Premier Education. AA explains that the shootout did not feature at the Summer Fayre but that it would probably be a good idea to have it at the Christmas Fayre because so many of the kids love playing football and the substitute ride in the Summer, Last Man Standing, was problematic because some of the children found it tricky to negotiate safely.
 - There is some discussion about the gaming tent, which featured at the Summer Fayre. AA explains that it won't be featuring at Christmas because although it was a success, it was tricky logistically and the time slots proved hard to manage for the volunteers.
- Jess Wells ask if there are still prizes for cake makers and AA replies that yes, there is a KS1 winner and a KS2 winner.

9. Christmas Fayre – Family Kitchen

- RG explains that the Family Kitchen is a fantastic and much-loved component of OLOL fayres. So many people from different backgrounds make amazing signature dishes.
- Traditionally, people bring home made food on the day of the fayre and volunteers man the stall. Beforehand, the volunteers didn't know what food was going to turn up but now we've asked people to let us know in advance what they will be cooking.
- In recent years, there has been problems with getting enough volunteers to actually run the stall. There is an array of great food but a lack of people to serve and wash up. At the Summer Fayre this year, the decision was made to do self-service (volunteers were needed to put food out) and only be open between 1pm and 3pm. This worked well and we may have to do this again for the Christmas Fayre if not enough people step forward to help run the

kitchen.

- Hannah Foster asks if FK is run by a particular school year but AA explains that it's run by the parents/carers in general. There used to be a team that ran it brilliantly but those parents have now all moved on from OLOL. Hannah offers to run FK (with help) and to put the word out to get volunteers together as well as people to make dishes. Her offer was warmly received by the Committee and those present.
- AA adds that last year at Christmas, we did baked potatoes, but it made a real dent in the kitchen and the time of volunteers because the potatoes were frozen and took ages to heat through, so we won't be doing that again this year.
- AA says that as a Committee we will help anyone with any ideas they may have for the running of FK.

10. Christmas Fayre – Santa's Grotto

- AF says that everything is under control with the grotto for the Christmas Fayre and that she has a great team in place. There is some discussion about whether or not the price of the grotto is changed and AA says that this is something that the Committee needs to consider.
- RG mentions that the photographer whom he won a photoshoot with in the Summer raffle was talking about doing a photoshoot at the grotto and charging parents for photos of the children with Santa and elves. However, AF said that the grotto itself would be too dark because of the way it's dressed and also it would take more time up for Santa when the Grotto is always running behind anyway! AA says we can try and work around it – perhaps have a separate area set up where photos can be taken with Santa; however, everyone agrees that this would be quite tricky logistically, especially if it involves asking Santa volunteers to do extra.

12. AOB

- Next PTA meeting – AA says the next meeting will probably be on a Wednesday as we try to mix up the days on which meetings take place to give

people more opportunities to attend. She also says there is better engagement if meetings take place in person, yet she's aware that over Zoom is easier for a lot of people. It's decided that a poll will be put in the reps group asking which option people prefer.

13. Close

AA thanked everyone for attending the meeting. No other business was noted and the meeting was closed.