



OLOL PTA MEETING

Wednesday, 19th November 2025

Present:

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

Donna Tooth (Y4), Lama Tadros (Y1&Y6), Grainne Curran (Y2&Y6), Aoibheann Foley (Y5), Silvia Daurelio (N), Beth (N), Dolores Condren (N&Y3), Hannah Foster (R), Louise Ellis (Y x&Y6), Kathy Kali (Y3&Y6).

Apologies:

Danni Abrahams (R), Penny Goodchild (Y5)

1. Chair's Welcome

AA welcomed all to OLOL PTA Meeting and gave a brief outline of the agenda we would be covering.

2. Fundraising Projects for 2025/2026

AA outlines the fundraising requests from Mrs Boon for the next academic year. She says there are two main requests - one for library corners in the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms and the other, new tables and chairs for Year 5. The latter is because the children are much bigger than they were 10 years ago and Mrs Boon says they need replacing.

AA also reiterates the request that the PTA saves around £10K a year, to put towards the £30K cost of replacing the astroturf when the time comes.

Mrs Boon has been informed that the PTA cannot afford to meet all these requests at once, and the general consensus that the easiest thing to cover at the moment is the replacement of the Year 5 tables and chairs.

AA points out that voting is not essential but that she'd like to get opinions on how people feel about the money being used to fund these projects.

Beth asks how the funding works at OLOL. As a new parent to the school, with a child in Nursery, she wants to know more about it.

AA explains that the PTA usually raises around £24k a year. There are some things that the Committee has already pledged to pay for such as the Year 6 Leavers' party, Windrush and Book Week workshops as well as the pantomime and Christmas entertainment for the children. Everything else is requested on a more ad hoc basis by Mrs Boon and the Committee and PTA tends to decide whether to fund on a project by project basis.

Hannah Foster asks if it would be possible to put on another event to get some more money coming in (each event raises around £6 or £7k a year). AA agrees that this would be great, but the problem is finding the volunteers to actually help the PTA run them.

Hannah asks if school would consider raising the Governors' fund to enable the financing of more projects and AA explains that the uptake of the Governors' Fund is already only at 20% across the school, so asking the parents in that bracket to contribute more wouldn't be possible.

Donna Tooth mentions that she is a Governor at OLOL, so she can't comment on raising the Fund, but she points out that it may be a good idea to explain to people exactly what the money raised at each event is going towards. She believes that would entice more people to get involved and to turn up, if there is a fundraising goal for each event.

Everyone is in agreement and Lou Ellis says it's a really good idea to know what the PTA is fundraising for per event.

AA says that the PTA will use it on all comms as a marketing tool going forward.

Donna also says that she is also a parent at Trinity and that the new Headteacher there has brought in a scheme whereby instead of doing a blind donation, parents are asked

to pay £30 for a new chair for their child. Would there be scope for something similar at OLOL?

AA points out that Mrs Boon wants to do a similar type of 'buy a brick' scheme where parents buy a brick (or something similar) to fund a building (such as was done for the ICT suite), but she wants to potentially do it to fund the new astroturf.

AA also points out that the Summer Ball is coming back in 2026, which is great news because it means another £6k-7k compared to last year when the PTA was unable to stage the Ball.

Claire Sheridan mentions, regarding the astroturf, that she works with a lot of big contractors and can have a look and see if there's another way of getting some new astroturf that's more efficient and hopefully won't cost as much as £30k. She says she knows of somewhere where two tennis courts were installed for 35k, so 30k seems extreme.

AA explains that there is a list of approved contractors and that the job goes out to tender, so we are quite restricted in how we can influence the process, if at all.

RG adds that the school got someone in to look at the astroturf who said it has 2-3 years left before it needs replacing. RG says he works in schools and many of them seem to get new astroturf through Sports England or other charities. Unfortunately, this isn't possible for OLOL as the requirements of Sports England and others is that there are floodlights and the astroturf needs to be open to other community projects and that isn't possible at OLOL.

AA says that Mrs Boon is open to having other people come in and give quotes etc and Claire Sheridan says she'd like to look into it. AA says she'd pick it up with her at a later date.

3. The Christmas Fayre

Volunteer Slots

- AA asks how the different year groups are doing with filling their volunteer slots for the Christmas Fayre.

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- Silvia says that Nursery has filled all its slots and quite a few people have also signed up to the Family Kitchen.
 - Hannah says that all the slots are also filled in Reception and that there are currently around two people per slot for FK.
 - RG reminds Hannah that someone has to go into the kitchen and turn on the oven and bain-marie etc. Lama Tadros mentions that she has a video showing how to use the oven that she can send to Hannah.
 - AA adds that a cleaner has been booked for Sunday to make sure the school is spick and span for Monday morning.
 - Lama says that Year 1 (toys) is short on volunteers for 3pm-4pm and for tidy up.
 - Grainne Curran says that the go-kart slots are filled apart from 3pm-4pm. Dolores Condren asks how many turns the children are allowed on the go-karts with their wristbands. AA explains that it's over 5s only, as a rule, but if under 5s can reach the pedals, they're usually allowed on but have to pay. AA adds that each child gets three turns with their wristband then have to pay.
 - AA explains that the signs say clearly that it's over 5s only, but adds that it may be a good idea to have a sign saying that the restrictions are about height, rather than age, so that people are aware.
 - EW mentions that Year 3's stall (cakes) is ok for volunteers but she has signed up to do 1pm-2pm because there was a lower number at that time. EW also says that that she has also signed up with two others to set up the cake stall and AA says that's a good idea because it takes a long time to set up the cakes. AA adds that Mrs Boon does cake competition judging at 11.30am so everything has to be set up by then.
 - Yr 4 – one hour before – need to set up. Splat game. AA – Penny wrote a handover bible. Hook the duck, nerf guns, sweet tombola, guess the name of the teddy and sweets in the jar. Generally goes in the main hall in the centre. AA

going to look through what Penny left in the 'Bible'.

- Yr 5 – AA says that all the slots have been filled for Y5's snow globe ride.
- Yr 6 – Lama says that the Bar is short on volunteers for the last 2 slots but that messages are being sent out and she is confident that all the slots will be filled.
- GC – says that the face painting shifts are all covered with Lou, but that it would be good to have new blood coming into the team. Dolores Condren asks if it would be a good idea to do some shoutouts in the younger year groups and Grainne agrees and asks for shoutouts to be done in Nursery and Reception.
- AA says that she and other Committee members did stock take last week and now need to work out exactly how much alcohol needs to be bought to stock the bar. Need to bear in mind that brandy or Bailey's hot chocolate is usually served at the bar.

Santa's Grotto

- Claire Sheridan mentions that unfortunately she isn't available for Grotto set up on Friday, but that the scaffolding is due to go up on Thursday (this had been OK'd by Mrs Boon) and there is a full crew available to set up on Friday morning.
- AA says that we normally get good weather but the concern with setting up the Grotto early is the wind and rain before the day itself.
- Claire says that it should be OK if it's just the scaffolding going up and then the team can set up the rest on Friday morning.
- RG asks if we need music in the Grotto. Aoibheann Foley says we need a speaker that's not too big and can't be heard through the wall in the other Grotto area. RG offers his DeWalt speaker for use again and his offer is gratefully received.
- Elves
 - Claire adds that she has all the elf costumes at home to wash.
 - The Grotto is sorted for the first 2 hours of the fayre for elf volunteers but there is no one for the 3pm to 4pm slot.
 - RG says he put a shoutout to dads on the Year 3 whats app group but there wasn't any uptake.

- Grainne Curran says it used to be really competitive. She adds that her Year 8 daughter is helping with face painting so perhaps wouldn't mind helping out as an elf? This idea was met with much enthusiasm!
 - RG says the PTA reps could do a shoutout for elf volunteers on the school gates when wristbands go on sale at the school gate.
 - Dolores Condren asks if it's the uniform that may be putting people off volunteering? Aoibheann Foley replies that it shouldn't do as the only thing they definitely have to wear is the elf hat!
 - AA asks if we ever asked the teachers to help out as elves? Nobody is sure but the general consensus is that teachers already give up their whole day to help out at the fayre on the bottle tombola, so it would probably be too much of an ask.
- AA – says she has posted the fayre flyer on WCH (Wanstead Community Hub).

4. Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop

AA says that she is also going to put flyers for the wreath-making workshop on WCH.

Kathy Kali (who runs the workshop) says that last year flyers were put out at the fayre and in a few cafes in Wanstead too.

Grainne Curran says that last year the workshop was really, really good and if year groups haven't got any Christmas drinks organised, this could be a good alternative. Kathy thanks Grainne for the positive feedback.

AA mentions that there has been a bit of discord recently about the price of the workshop. Some parents had expressed concerns that the workshop was BYOB AND that you had to pay for the ticket. AA and Aoibheann Foley both maintain that £50 (up from £45 last year) is still a really competitive price, especially as a welcome drink and nibbles are also provided.

AA says that she will put a tickets for the wreath-making workshop for 2026 into the Christmas raffle as a prize. Also wristbands for the Summer Fayre.

5. Christmas Raffle Prize Donations

AA lists the prizes that have been donated so far for the Christmas raffle and says that while a good start has been made, we need more!

Dolores Condren says that she and her family normally donate tickets to a Manchester United game but asks if that's better as an auction prize at the Summer Ball (which is where they are usually donated to) and everyone agrees they are better as an auction prize.

AA says that we try to do as much as we can through parents and connections to the school, without having to ask local businesses at a time when lots of them are struggling. She adds that she will speak to Wild Goose Bakery in Leytonstone about a breakfast hamper.

AA adds that Claire Sheridan has done a fantastic job of getting donations in. At the moment, we are looking at a provisional £1200k from sponsors, so that will cover the cost of the rides.

Dolores Condren asks about whether there will be any footballing activities at the Fayre. AA says that she has spoken to Premier Education about having the penalty shootout game back this year. Also, balls will again be given out as prizes but they won't be pumped up.

8. AOB

AA mentions that the Summer Ball is back on again this year at the Wanstead Golf Club on July 11th.

Hannah Foster mentions that a Ball Committee has also been formed if anyone would like to join it and help organise the Ball.

9. Close

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