



OLOL PTA AGM

Tuesday, 30th September 2025

Present:

Committee: Michelle Jeyes (MJ), PTA Co-Chair, Alex Athienitou (AA) PTA Co-Chair, Raf Markowski (RM), PTA Co-Treasurer, Ellie White (EW), PTA Co-Secretary, Jessie Day (JD), PTA Co-Secretary. Also Mrs Boon (OLOL Headteacher) and Miss Crampton (OLOL Deputy Headteacher).

Dhiraj Shrestha (Y5, Y1), Rosed Marquez (R), Miguel De Goicoechea (R), Silvia Daurelio (N), Carol Achen (N), Ian Sweet (N, R), Klaus Lang (Y1), Nick Humphrey (on behalf of Caroline Owen) (Y1), Hannah Jones (N), Chimaechi Allan (N), Tom Meagher (N), Sian Boase (R), Flora Cox (N, Y1, Y3), Natalie Dinga (Y1, Y5), Zara Nwabudike (Y4), Linda Duan (Y1), Vicky Blackburn (Y1), Danni Abrahams (R), Jennifer Pestell (R), Hannah Foster (R), Jessica Wells (R), Louise Ellis.

Apologies:

Roberto Grammatica, PTA Shadow Treasurer, Ross Curran, PTA Co-Treasurer, Charlotte Richardson (R, Y3), Elizabeth Stokoe (R, Y3), Aoibheann Foley (Y5), Dolores Condren (N, Y3), Patience Rusinga (Y3, Y6), Donna Tooth (Y4), Lama Tadros (Y1, Y6), Kathy Kali (Y3, Y6), Evi Kartsouni (Y3), Grainne Curran (Y6), Clara Turner (Y4, Y6), Penny Goodchild (Y5).

1. Chair's Welcome

AA welcomes everyone, especially the parents who are new to the school and thanks them for coming along to the PTA AGM. It's wonderful to have everyone here, and as the number of people present is twice the number of people on the Committee, the meeting is declared open.

AA adds that everyone should have a copy of the meeting's Agenda on their chairs.

AA asks everyone present to sign the sheet that's going round and indicate on the sheet if they're interested in becoming a PTA class rep.

2. Introductions

AA introduces herself as the PTA Co-Chair, with two sons in the school, in Year 1 and Year 5. She also introduces the rest of the Committee, Michelle Jeyes (Co-Chair), children in Years 2 and 4, Raf Markowski (Treasurer), children in Years 1 and 4, Ellie White (Co-Secretary), children in Reception and Year 3 and Jess Day (Co-Secretary), children in Years 1 and 3.

3. Apologies

MJ says that instead of going through the list of apologies, she will refer people to the OLOL PTA Reps Whats App group. Main apologies, however, are from Roberto Grammatica, Shadow Treasurer and Ross Curran, Co-Treasurer.

4. Minutes From The Last Meeting

- MJ states that the minutes from the previous PTA meeting are approved and are currently with the OLOL school office for upload onto the school's website. EW confirms that this is the case.
- She also states that the only outstanding topic from the previous minutes is the situation with the golf club and the Summer Ball, which unfortunately never went ahead due to rising costs that made it financially unfeasible for the PTA to run. AA states that this topic appears on the Agenda for this evening and will be discussed in due course.

5. Chair's Report - The PTA at OLOL

- AA says that every parent at the school is a part of the PTA, whatever they do and whoever they are; we're all part of our thriving school community. And however small the contribution that's made, it helps to raise funds for the school.
- The objective of the PTA is to build an effective relationship between families, school and the local community. She points out that the current Committee has just completed its first year in office and that it was decided that as a new

Committee, there would be a lot more focus on community events as well as fundraising.

- AA states that the PTA always looks to put on fun, affordable activities for OLOL's children. She describes the work of the PTA as providing the 'cherry on the cake', to enrich the experience of every child at OLOL. While the Governors and central government funding provide the 'essentials', the PTA provides the fun and glitter, the things that, with budgets being cut left, right and centre, the children would not be able to enjoy.
- The PTA is a registered charity and its operational methods are adapted from the Parentkind model (Parentkind being a network of PTAs across the UK that supports and empowers parents to become involved in their children's education).
- AA also notes that the PTA is fun! It's a way to make friends and play a part in the school community. She explains that when she joined OLOL in 2020, she joined the PTA as a way to see friendly faces at the school gate and that many people who are in the PTA joined for that very reason. The PTA is a group of people who work together as friends to enrich the school, local community and the educational experience of every OLOL child.

6. Chair's Report - PTA Fundraising & Spend 2024-2025

- AA takes those present through the fundraising events organised by the PTA in the past year – the Christmas Fayre, Wreath Making Workshop (organised by PTA Rep Kathy Kali and MJ), St Patrick's Disco (for which tickets are harder to get than Glastonbury!) and the Summer Fayre, all of which were massively successful.
- Unfortunately, the PTA was unable to stage the Summer Ball as usual because of rising costs, which meant that it was not financially viable. AA notes that this was a big blow, because the PTA lost out on around 7k of revenue as a result.
- In addition, the PTA ran two raffles, one at Christmas and one in the summer – both raffles offered some fabulous prizes.

- Little Recyclers clothes collection – four collections throughout the year raised a few hundred pounds for the PTA.
- Non-Uniform days – normally there are three a year. Two take place the day before both the Christmas and Summer fayres in exchange for a bottle that can be used on the bottle tombola. Funds from the third non-uniform day go straight to the PTA.
- Passive funding – AA explains that the PTA also raises money through passive funding (i.e, funding that comes to the PTA without the need for any active event organisation). Companies such as Stikins (name tags) and Easyfundraising (an app) give a percentage of their profits automatically to the PTA if parents purchase products from them or through them.
- AA outlines what the PTA spent its money on in the last academic year – the biggest spends being storage boxes for Years 3 and 4 cloakrooms and the refurbishment of Zara's Garden, a quiet space in front of the Year 5 classrooms where many OLOL students like to go and have some quiet time. Also provision of anti-bullying workshops and World Book Day activities.
- AA notes that RM will soon be taking those present through PTA spend for the academic year in more detail.
- AA points out that every parent/carers in the school has a say in what the PTA's funds are spent on. Everyone is always welcome to put their ideas forward and all parents/carers are welcome to PTA meetings so that they can be involved in the decision-making process.
- AA says that the PTA is hugely keen to get a ball committee in place to organise next year's ball as it was such a loss last year. The PTA lost around 7k in funds that would normally be raised from the ball.
- AA notes that the PTA does not work alone – the Committee has many, many people (including reps, parents/carers, teachers and community members) who all help. An extra special thank you to Mrs Boon, Miss Crampton and all OLOL staff who give up their time to help us at events.

8. Treasurer's Report

- RM states that the PTA's financial year started on 1st September 2024 and runs until the end of August 2025.
- The PTA operates on a cash basis and started with a cash reserve of nearly £10k in September 2024.
- The Christmas Fayre and raffle are the PTA's biggest earners, raising around £10k (the raffle raised £1k alone). Together with Santa's drive-by and the Wreath Making Workshop, nearly £11k was raised.
- St Pat's Disco in March raised nearly £3k.
- The Summer Fayre and Summer raffle, together with Friday sales of ice pops in the playground raised nearly £8k. The Summer raffle raised £700 alone, showing the raffles are an important source of PTA income.
- Little Recyclers – RM explains that OLOL has four collections a year and raised almost £600 this last year. Unfortunately, the company has reduced the amount it pays from £0.45 per kilo of clothes collected to £0.25 per kilo (unless we collect at least 200 kg) – however, it's still worth doing as every penny helps.
- Non-Uniform Day – the one day not associated with the fayres raised almost £500 (parents/carers were asked to give £1 per child).
- Other passive fundraising efforts such as Easyfundraising app, ASDA cash pot, Redbridge lottery (together with Little Recyclers and Non-Uniform Day) raised about £1250.
- Parental donations raised £1150.
- PTA expenses for 2024-2025 were as follows:
 - Yr 6 leavers' party and yearbook - £1700
 - Card readers, cash drawers, hot water urn, insurance for events and first-aid training – approx £1k

- Zara's Garden (£10k), cloakrooms for Years 3 and 4 (£6k), anti-bullying workshops (£700), Book Week (£1600), Skittleman Christmas entertainment (£600), sports jackets (£300) - £18,500 altogether.
- RM explains that the biggest expenses were:
 - Enhancement of Zara's garden (removal of metal railings, re-planting and re-turfing of the area, widening of the path, new wooden fence) costing nearly £10k.
 - Cloakrooms for Years 3 and 4 in the Bernadette Building costing nearly £6k.
- It was noted that the Zara's Garden enhancement was part of a project to replace the paving in the area to ensure the safety of parents and children (the replacement paving was funded by OLOL Governors).
- RM explains that training 12 parents to be first aiders at our events was also a big expense, but it's the responsibility of the PTA to ensure there is access to immediate medical attention at PTA-run events.
- RM notes that additional card readers were a very welcome addition at the fayres as it meant people could pay by card instead of having to have cash on them. Plus, it's easier for volunteers manning the stalls.
- RM outlines what the school's funding requests might be for the 2025-2026 year:
 - Book Week (£1500-2k)
 - Black History Month workshops (£1100) already approved by the PTA Committee
 - Wizard of Oz / pop-up panto (£3240)
 - Further enhancements to the playground (£5k-10k).
- It was noted that the PTA is already thinking ahead to the need for the astro turf to be replaced in around three years' time, at a cost of £25k-30k. To that end, the PTA is considering putting aside some funds every year so that the expense of this can be easily met when the time comes.

- RM outlines to those present how people can get involved to help the PTA Committee.
 - Volunteering at one of our events
 - Shopping using the Easyfundraising app
 - Buying Stikins name labels for uniform
 - Buying Redbridge lottery tickets
 - Employer fund matching (whereby an employer agrees to match the amount of money that their employees raise at a PTA-run event)
 - Payroll giving (whereby an employer deducts the donation before tax is calculated under PAYE system, so the donation is tax-effective for an employee)
 - Donating prizes and gifts for our raffles
 - Donating clothes for the Little Recyclers collections.

- RM emphasises the importance of trying to get every parent/carers at the school to download the Easyfundraising app and use it when making online purchases. For every purchase made, the app will make a donation to OLOL PTA and using it can help raise substantial amounts. Currently only 47 parents/carers have downloaded the app but we need to increase this number significantly. RM says that all parents have to do is scan the QR code on school's website to download the app.

9. Headteacher's Address

Mrs Boon, Headteacher at OLOL addresses those present, and begins by answering a question from a Nursery parent about what the Governors' Fund (which all parents are asked to contribute to) is spent on.

- Mrs Boon explains that the Governors' Fund is money for capital funds at the school – such as the heating, the new roof, new paving by Zara's garden (cost £30k) and the new Benedict Building toilets (cost £86k).

- Mrs Boon explains that school asks for £100 per OLOL family, but realises that some families can't afford this, so she asks that people give what they can, however small.

- She also acknowledges that some of these sums may seem very large, but the school can't just get 'any old person' to complete works, it has to be

specific, specially trained and licensed companies, which inevitably costs more.

- Mrs Boon thanks the PTA and all the parents who make the effort to help raise funds for the school.
- Mrs Boon thanks the PTA in particular for funding projects that are pivotal to the children's education. When she arrived at OLOL in 2020, there was no ICT suite or library and the PTA has given over £60k to make these essential facilities possible. She says that the PTA calls itself the 'icing on the cake' but the PTA is more than this; it's part of our community and really does make a difference. She says she loves the relationship that the school has with the PTA and thanks those present on behalf of the governors, the school, but most of all, the children.

10. Election Of New PTA Committee

AA notes that this year has been the first year of the new PTA Committee and that although it had a lot to learn and had to hit the ground running, it's done so well.

- The current PTA Committee member intentions are as follows:
 - AA (current Co-Chair) looking to step up to Chair.
 - MJ (current Co-Chair) is stepping down.
 - Roberto Grammatica (currently Shadow Treasurer) – looking to shadow AA as Co-Chair.
 - RM (current Co-Treasurer) looking to step up to Treasurer.
 - Ross Curran (current Co-Treasurer) is stepping down.
 - Jess Day (Co-Secretary) – looking to remain.
 - Ellie White (Co-Secretary) – looking to remain.
- All the intentions were voted for and passed, so these positions will be resumed as of the end of the AGM meeting.
- AA says that if anyone would like to shadow any of the positions, to please drop the PTA Committee an email or let us know in person.

11. Independent Examination Of Accounts

RM explains that it's a Charity Commission regulation that the PTA's accounts must be independently examined or audited and the PTA has decided to have the accounts examined. Dhiraj Shrestha, a Chartered Accountant, has agreed to examine the PTA's accounts and these will be available on the Charity Commission's website in due course.

12. AOB

- AA notes that the next event will be the Xmas fayre on Saturday 29th November.
- The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday October 14th, likely at the Bull in Wanstead. AA explains that last year the PTA did a lot of zoom meetings but while there was perhaps better attendance, there was less engagement overall.
- AA notes that there is a QR code on everyone's chairs to join the PTA Reps whats app group and if anyone wants to join as a rep, to please sign up.
- AA presents a bunch of flowers to MJ and thanks her for everything she has done for the PTA over the years and that she will be much missed.
- MJ responds with a big thank you to the Committee and the previous PTA Committee, which she also worked with. She says it has been an honour and a privilege to be a part of the PTA and to help the school. She adds that like AA, she joined OLOL not knowing anyone and joined the PTA to meet people and make friends and that's exactly what she did! Work commitments have changed so she unfortunately has to step down but she intends to return to help again, perhaps in a Rep capacity, in the future. She adds that there are a great many who work tirelessly behind the PTA to bring everything together. Her words were met with a warm round of applause from everyone present.

13. Close

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