



OLOL PTA MEETING

Thursday, 8th May 2025

Present:

Committee: Alex Athienitou (AA), Raf Markowski (RM), Roberto Grammatica (RG), Ellie White (EW), Jessie Day (JD).

Donna Tooth (Y3), Lama Tadros (R&Y5), Kathy Kali (Y2 & Y5), Grainne Curran (Y1 & Y5), Aoibheann Foley (Y4&Y6), Patience Rusinga (Y2&Y5), Elizabeth Stokoe (N&Y2), Nicola Panayiota (Y4), Caroline Eder, Ros Bridges, Sara, Suvaibath Nadeerudin.

Apologies:

Michelle Jeyes (PTA Co Chair), Charlotte Richardson (N, Y2).

1. Chair's Welcome

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

2. Summer Ball

AA stated that the Committee was very sorry to have to announce that the Summer Ball (due to take place on June 21st) has been cancelled. This is due to the golf club - where the event is normally held - coming under new ownership and a plan being in place to prevent the club closing down. This new plan has meant that the golf club is unable to honour the original price quoted to hold the event. A ticket would now cost £90, which the Committee feels is not viable.

Ros Bridges also pointed out that the cost of the meal at the golf club has doubled in price and the cost of hiring the golf club has also increased dramatically. In previous years, it was approx. £1000 to hire, last year it was approx. £5000 and this year, even

more. All attendees expressed their condolences to Ros for the difficulties she has experienced organising the ball this year and thanked her – and the rest of the Ball committee - for all the work that had already gone into organising this year's event.

AA also stated that the decision had not been taken lightly and that the Committee had looked at many alternatives and had lengthy discussions about what could be done to remedy the situation but unfortunately nothing suitable was available to use as a venue as the event is only 4/5 weeks away. In addition, there is not enough manpower to run a brand new event at this stage (there's a lot of effort involved in getting the venue ready etc).

Aoibheann Foley asked if it would be possible to hire Eaton Manor? AA said she had spoken to the manager at Eaton Manor, Tasha, who said would be able to hire it to OLOL for membership price but couldn't do the June 21st date as they already have a wedding on.

AA stated that she – and the whole Committee – are aware that people will miss out, particularly year 6 parents and it's one of our biggest fundraiser (normally raises approx. £6,000 mainly due to the proceeds from the auction), which means the projects Mrs Boon has in the pipeline could be affected.

There was some discussion about adding an event on to the Summer Fayre to make up for the loss of 'earnings' from the Ball, but it was noted that Mr Kelly is unable to extend hours (past the 12pm to 4pm hours of the fayre).

AA noted that the idea of doing an auction on its own had also been considered, but the Committee had come to the conclusion that this was not in keeping with the community spirit of the events that we are looking to provide for OLOL parents and children and the wider community.

3. Alternative Event To Summer Ball

AA stated that due to the cancellation of the Summer Ball, the PTA Committee would look at perhaps doing an Autumn Ball in October time, which has been done previously. Year 6 parents would be invited back and it was also noted that doing something in the Autumn would be good for new parents joining the school, to give them an opportunity to get to know the school and other parents a bit better.

AA stated that the Committee was thinking of perhaps changing the event up a bit, perhaps doing something a bit less formal with canapes, drinks and live music, and somewhere local and walkable such as The Duke? More of a social event as opposed to a formal ball, something that would need less organisation and setting up.

Ros Bridges stated that finding a location could be a problem if we wanted to do an Autumn Ball. Unless the golf club has a quiet season and could do a bit of a deal?

It was noted by a few meeting attendees that having a social event (whether that be a ball alternative or a separate event) in the autumn would be a great way for new parents joining the school to socialise with other parents and get to know more about the PTA and what they can do to help out.

4. Fundraising Requests From Mrs Boon

The fundraising requests from Mrs Boon were outlined by AA and the rest of the Committee.

- £6500 for storage boxes for rucksacks for Year 3 and one Year 4 classroom. AA stated that Mrs Boon had showed her the current storage situation and she acknowledged that the children's rucksacks and jackets are coming down off their pegs, causing safety issues. Mrs Boon has also acknowledged that the cost of this project is high, therefore she would like to do it in stages, starting with Year 4 and Year 3.
- £10k for Zara's garden, a memorial garden that was set up in memory of a past pupil who passed away. This request is to 'top up' the Governor's £30k, which will be given to replace the uneven paving in the area around Zara's garden and Year 5 classrooms, which is currently a trip hazard for the whole school population.
- The astro turf needs replacing, but Mrs Boon has acknowledged that it has three years of life left in it. Will cost 30k, so Mrs Boon has asked the PTA to try to put aside 10k a year for the next three years to do this when the time comes.
- It was also noted that the PTA has paid for a few items recently, including £308.50 for jackets for school teams. The football team and various other sports team now have a jacket that they can wear to games that has the school's logo

on it. Feedback has been that the jackets have been very welcome and the children love wearing them.

5. St. Pat's Disco Debrief

AA stated on behalf of the whole Committee that the St Pat's disco was a great event and had really great feedback from kids and parents. Everyone had lots of fun.

Points of feedback to note:

- Aoibheann reiterated previous feedback about the floor being a slip hazard because of all the slushies and drinks that were spilt on it. Jess acknowledged that the PTA needs better equipment (big mops, buckets etc) – and probably more volunteers - to enable the Committee to do a better job of keeping the floor clean and dry during the event.
- Patience fed back previously about the need for different types of music to be played during the event. This last disco was the last one for Jonathan as a DJ , and Penny stated that her husband Jason is prepared to do some DJ-ing at the Summer Fayre, but he would like some help with deciding what sort of music to play. In line with Patience's feedback, Penny asked that everyone could please ping over any ideas to her of what their kids like to listen to, so she can pass it on.

It was mentioned that perhaps the kids throughout the school could contribute to a playlist that parents could put together via a form in parentmail. This idea was warmly welcomed by all attendees.

- There was discussion about letting the kids go outside during the disco as some get overwhelmed with all the noise and need a break. It was decided, however, by all present that it would be too dark and another thing to 'police' that would require more volunteers. Mrs Boon also fed back previously about a separate 'breakout' areas for kids but again, it was noted that this would require volunteers to make sure the children were looked after. AA stated that the idea of some of the teachers getting involved in this was floated to Mrs Boon, who said that she would put some thought into it.

- It was also noted that the disco is restricted by numbers in the school hall. It was suggested that the Benedict building could be opened to accommodate more numbers, however, it was noted that tea time club is in the Benedict Building until 6.30pm.

6. KS1 Disco

AA stated that she and Mrs Boon had had a meeting about a KS1 disco. Many of the children that attend the St. Pat's disco are young and can easily be overwhelmed by the noise and commotion.

AA informed attended that Mrs Boon has volunteered teachers at the school to help with a KS1 disco and the plan is for it to take place in the autumn.

The ticket price would cover the cost of a packet of crisps or sweets and a drink for the children, which would be given to them in their classrooms by their teachers ahead of the disco taking place. Fruit would also be available.

Discussion was had about ticket prices and how much profit would be made from this event. AA stated that the money raised at St Pat's and this disco aren't anything to do with the tickets as the money we receive from tickets sales is what buys the drinks and tuck that is then sold for a profit. It was noted that lots of money won't necessarily be made from this event, but AA emphasised the importance of doing things for the whole school community, regardless of whether or not it makes a large profit.

Elizabeth also noted that there isn't a lot happening for new parents in the autumn term, so when it came to asking for volunteers for the Christmas fayre, we struggled because people didn't know anything about the PTA or its fundraising events. They also didn't really know any other parents, so were unlikely to sign up to volunteer with people they don't know.

However, if we put on events such as a KS1 disco and an autumn social event for new parents, this would perhaps help smooth the path to getting more help for the fayres in the future. AA stated that all this is in line with the new PTA Committee's desire to have a clear focus on community. However, the big problem we have is capacity, as putting on extra events is a lot for a new Committee to deal with.

7. Summer Fayre

AA stated that the Summer fayre is only six weeks away and she would like to do a meeting in person closer to the time to plan in more detail.

It was noted that stall allocations would be remaining the same: (N – bouncy castle; R – carousel/merry-go-round; Yr 1 – toys, Yr 2 – go karts; Yr 3 – cakes and hot drinks; Yr 4 – games and sweet tombola; Yr 5 – last man standing; Yr 6 – bar). This means the teams that volunteer can get two stalls under their belt rather than having to run two different ones.

- **Gaming Tent – New Addition For The Summer Fayre**

AA told everyone that there is a new addition for the summer fayre this year - a gaming tent! The Committee had received some feedback that the older kids can get a bit bored at the fayres, so this was an idea to give them something else to do.

It was stated that the cost of hire is £484 (for up to 20 kids).

There was a lot of discussion about how to run the gaming tent. It can fit 15 kids in it at a time, so do we let each child have a 15 minute slot and then change over, much like the arrangements for the grotto?

Also, like the grotto, it was discussed that people should book a time slot and then if some kids want to do it together, they can book the same time slot.

It was noted that pricing could be tricky – £2 for 15 mins? More?

Donna asked if there would be an age limit put on it? It was acknowledged that there is definitely a gap in the older child's market. Do we do 15 mins and that's it? 30 mins is too long but 15 mins does give you a bit of time without it being too long and let more people benefit. It was decided that 15-minute slots will be the probable outcome and volunteers 'manning' the tent would have to ensure that the 15-minute slots are kept to.

Aoibheann stated that there would be lots of set up involved and this might mean that some time would be lost. She suggested that we could do a Super Mario league as it comes with multiple games so we could stick to one game and have a league or two leagues? Roberto suggested that we could do one Super Mario

league and one FIFA league, for example. The idea of a league or two was liked by all attendees.

- **Reintroduction Of The Uniform Stall**

AA explained that the PTA had noticed a change in appetite for a pre-loved uniform stall – people are increasingly looking for sustainable/recyclable clothing options and it's important that we cater for this as much as we can. It was also noted that we could advertise the fact that there is going to be a pre-loved uniform stall at the fayre, and it would help to promote the event.

It was noted that the idea is to run it on an honesty basis, so there's no need for anyone to run it. However, after some discussion, it was decided that this wouldn't be viable and we would in fact need volunteers to help run this stall.

- **General Stalls**

It was noted that an advert looking for stallholders has gone out on the Wanstead Community Hub facebook group. It was also noted that there will be a notice in parentmail too to try and recruit stallholders.

It was also noted that there is more space at the summer fayre, so this could be an opportunity to give the kids who missed out on stalls at the Xmas fayre a chance. However, it was also noted that the school had had the craft fayre last term, so there may be less of an appetite for the stalls.

- **Music**

The ongoing issue of how to get music playing in the main hall and Benedict building was discussed. AA stated that we need ideas for how we can achieve this – do we use speakers/tablets etc and if so, how do we come about securing this equipment?

- **Raffle**

AA stated that we will still look to do the raffle in the summer and asked all present to please keep their ears to the ground for raffle prizes. We have already had a good selection of great prizes coming through, but we always need more!

- **Auction**

AA also stated that she will go back to the people who have offered auction prizes and ask if they can save them over till the autumn event as they're quite high value. It was agreed by all that this was the right thing to do.

- **Sponsors**

The issue of trying to get local businesses to sponsor the Summer fayre was discussed. AA pointed out that at the Xmas fayre, the money that the PTA received from sponsors paid for all the fairground rides, so the more sponsors we have more, the more money we raise.

What each sponsor would get for their money and the different tiers of sponsorship available was also discussed. Previously, companies have paid a set amount and get their logo displayed on the fayre's flyer and an advertising banner at the fayre itself.

It was noted that Raf and Ellie recently had a meeting with a local fitness company, who is willing to sponsor the event. However, the issue of tiering the sponsorship needs more discussion because what the PTA gives the company in return has to be more than the standard to secure the larger amounts of money.

- **Leaflet**

The idea of having a map-like leaflet at the Summer Fayre to show people where everything is was also discussed. AA stated that although some people would be wary of waste, most people like to see things tangibly printed in front of them.

8. AOB

- **Michelle – Resignation**

AA informed attendees that from October's PTA AGM, Michelle Jeyes will be stepping down as Co-Chair of the PTA due to work commitments. She thanked Michelle for all her hard work and dedication to the OLOL PTA and said that over the years, the two have leant on each other and Michelle will be much missed.

She also noted that Michelle's absence from the meeting was due to a work event and not due to any animosity as a result of Michelle's decision to step down.

AA stated that if anyone would like to co-chair or shadow the Chair's position, to please let her know,

- **Year 6 Leavers**

It was noted that the Year 6 yearbook and leavers' party are both in hand (the year book by Amanda and Annabel and the party by Grainne, who is driving the Year organisation of the event.

- **New PTA Cupboard**

AA informed those present that the PTA has a fabulous new cupboard, the one next to the music room in the Benedict building. This means that the Committee can start to buy things that can be used at several events because there is now a place to store them, rather than having to pay out for one-time hire fees. For example, the light up letters that have been purchased for the leavers' disco can also be used for the Ball or other events etc.

Roberto stated that he's going to scope out doing the shelves for the new cupboard and if anyone has any metal shelving he can utilise to let him know.

- **First Aid Training**

It was noted that there is a need to have trained first aiders at events. Raf stated that Format Fitness (gym based in Snaresbrook) will host First Aid training on June 14th from 1pm to 7pm, which will be funded by the PTA. There are 15 spaces available and the training include paediatric First Aid and First Aid at work.

- **Selling Doughnuts**

Aoibheann brought up the subject of selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts at school. Everyone agreed that this would likely be a very popular idea. It was noted that the closest pick up would be Krispy Kreme at Stratford. Aoibheann stated that she would do some digging about the feasibility of doing this and feed back.

- **Ice Pop Sale**

Selling ice pops on Fridays after school, as has been done in previous years, was discussed. It was noted that they are very popular and because of this, make a good profit for the PTA. It was noted, however, that it could be a problem finding people to sell them at pick up, but the idea was floated that Mrs Boon could perhaps ask Year 6 children to sell them as this has been something they have enjoyed doing in previous years.

It was also noted that the freezer at school has been PAT tested (by Roberto) now, so it can be used to store any ice pops that we might want to purchase in advance.

- **Volunteers For The PTA**

Caroline asked about the opportunity for parents who can't volunteer to help out at events to simply donate money to the PTA. In reply, AA stated that she was on board with this (and has discussed the option of having a rolling direct debit in the past) but the problem is that we already have such a low volunteer number, if you give people the option to donate rather than volunteer, you run the risk of losing even the regular volunteers.

AA also stated that having social events earlier on in the year should definitely help boost volunteer numbers.

The idea of a Year 6 PTA Rep buddying up with Reception parents on the PTA was floated and it was agreed that this was a great idea.

Jess stated her intentions to better communicate the important role of the PTA, be clear about the programme of events and allow people to make an informed decision about whether they want to be involved or not. It was noted that there are probably a lot of preconceptions of the PTA and we want to iron those out and get people on board.

9. Close:

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