

**Blakedown C of E Primary School**  
**PTA Chairs Report 2021/2022**  
**4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

The main objective of our PTA is to encourage good relations between staff, parents/carers and others associated with the school, to support the school with their budget deficit and to advance the education of the pupils in it.

Finally, this year we have been able to get back to some semblance of normality and hold face-to-face events which has been lovely. We've been able to make the memories from events that the kids love.

This year we have raised a total of **£4274.17** more than a £2k increase on last year. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your amazing support.

Xmas saw a new event which combined a scaled down Market with the old Breakfast with Santa and *Fun with the Elves* at the *Festive Fayre* was born. A really magical evening event that the kids and parents raved about. We raised just as much money with a lot less effort from the PTA. The success of online raffles from Covid taught us that it's much easier and more cost effective to do raffles online and friendlier for the environment with less ticket wastage.

The ever-popular Pop-up Cafes, Frozen Fridays and Krispy Kreme events all proved to be easy winners for us. Plus, cake sales managed to raise money for not only us, but Ukraine in a one-off fundraiser. Thanks for all of your cake donations throughout the year, especially the Ukraine and Jubilee cake sales, every little really does help, even the shop bought ones. We will continue to offer a Friday treat option weather permitting once a month.

New for 2021 was *Santa and his Sleigh*. Despite a false start, the event brought smiles to the kid's faces in what was a really challenging December for most of us Covid wise. It also added valuable funds to the pot. The sleigh is currently getting a makeover and we plan to be back with a bang in 2022.

The online quiz in March was cancelled due to lack of entries.

It was great to be back in the school grounds again for the Easter Trail and although we had some support, having it on a Thursday rather than a Friday next year could encourage more as we had a lot of eggs left. It would have been nice to see more Yr. 6's as there was a more advance trail for KS2. The Easter Bunny was a big hit though.

This year we decided to sign up to the events platform, PTA Events. Although we pay commission for tickets, there is an option pay extra to cover that and even when commission is paid, it's worked as a great platform to organise events and taken the pressure off the PTA committee.

One of the first events that we ran through the platform was the Blakedown Bash. It was fabulous for it to finally return at a new time of year and at a new venue that supported a village business. Everyone looked stunning, the venue was gorgeous and a good night was had by all.

Discos were finally back in the school hall and it was lovely to see happy, smiley faces dancing away. We will work on a system to avoid queues in future and also learn a lesson that minions are not good for the sweetie bags.... imagine teachers and the PTA scraping them off the floor on their hands and knees!

The PTA also supported the school by providing refreshments at the Sports Day and school plays.

Unfortunately, due to poor numbers, the Mini Bolt was postponed and all entries will be carried over to next year. Many parents asked for the event but unfortunately that didn't translate to enough numbers to make it viable. It's such a shame when we have to cancel an event for this reason. Please help us to make such events successful.

Rather than setting up a used uniform stand, Summer has set up an online uniform shop on PTA Events. Thanks to her and Lucy for painstakingly sorting and washing all of the uniform that had piled up. There's been lots of sales.

This year we applied for funds from the Norman Dawson Trust and the Parish Council, but are yet to hear anything and will continue to chase. Silent fundraisers continued with Bags to School, Stickins, Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile. Thanks to all of you that use these sites, please continue to use these.

Because of every parent who bought an ice cream, paid to come to an event, entered a raffle, donated a prize or paid a little extra for a drink, we have been able to fund all of the online subscriptions that benefits every child's education in our school. It is important to note that without the funds raised by the PTA, the online resources would simply not be available as the school just does not have the budget for such things.

We would also like to thank every single person who has organised, contributed and donated, attended meetings, ran around or just helped move a few tables. Thanks too to Mrs Beckford-Bond and her team who continue to offer support and time. In addition, our sincere thanks go out to all of the businesses that have donated prizes and products to help in our fundraising efforts.

Finally, thanks to the PTA team who work so very hard behind the scenes to make sure that there are still fundraising opportunities. It's not easy as most of us now have full-time jobs, so your support and help is always gratefully received.

Jenny Davis

PTA Chair