
FRIENDS OF THE DEANERY

A plea for help...

This academic year is so far proving to be bittersweet for the PTFA; on the one hand we have had some fantastic new people step forward to support and become involved in our events (which was really needed as some of our key players moved up to secondary schools last year), yet on the other hand we've had to cancel events due to lack of support from our families.

Without the PTFA the children wouldn't get a treat from Santa at Christmas time; there wouldn't be fayres and discos for them to enjoy with their friends; there wouldn't be the leavers books that our children treasure when they move on to their new school, nor the coach that takes them to their leavers meal and the DJ that brings the party. There wouldn't have been the learning pads, the outdoor classrooms, the sound and lighting systems and the trips to the pantomime that our children have enjoyed as an entire school for the past five years. In 2018 we have already cancelled both the Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayres because of a lack of support, these fayres bring in approximately £5,000 between them which will have a real impact on what we are able to deliver for our children in the next year.

We've met with other PTA's to talk about how things work at different schools, what we can do to encourage engagement from our families. We've increased our presence on social media, we've looked at stand alone apps; We've set up a notice board, we try to have a presence at more school events, we've set up coffee mornings; We send out newsletters and emails all to try and encourage our families to get involved. But we are still struggling. We are still the same small group of 10-12 people organising all of our events. We are limited by what we can achieve and deliver as we don't have enough key people.

After the event, people always tell us they would have helped if they'd have known it would be cancelled; if they'd have known we were struggling so much. So here we are, telling you all, that the PTFA needs YOU. We need you before we reach that point. We need more people to attend our committee meetings; We need more people who can get a small team together and organise some events; We need more people to help us before the events to set up, during the events to help it run, and after the event to tidy up, when we're all exhausted.

We understand that there can be a lot of misconceptions about PTA's being cliquey, or that if you come along you're going to end up with a role that you didn't really want, but we assure you that our PTFA is not like that. Our PTFA is made up of a small group of parents who, together, work really hard throughout the year to raise funds for our children that primarily provide them with niceties but also provide funding to school so that they can provide extras that enhance our children's learning journeys. We are fortunate at Deanery that our monies are still providing luxuries, many of the other Sutton schools we spoke to were funding heating systems and similar necessities.

Please don't assume that someone else will reply, that someone else will help; experience tells us that they don't. Talk to your children about our events, look at what we deliver and decide if you want to be a part of making sure that your children will enjoy these niceties throughout their school years until they move on with, hopefully, their leavers book and a DJ and coach for their leavers meal with their friends.

We need as a minimum a team to organise the Christmas Fayre, more area leads to take a role in DeaneryFest, organisers for other events and new people with fresh ideas to support us as we move forward. Please come and talk to us if you would like to get involved, you are welcome to find us in the playground, chat to us on FaceBook or come along to our next meeting on 15th January, 7:30pm in the coffee shop at Walmley Social Club.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, and a happy new year. **Your PTFA Team**