Newton Poppleford School, School Lane, Newton Poppleford, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0EL Register Charity Nº: 1015155





Newton Poppleford School Association

Chair's Report to the AGM - 2020

Introduction

What a disappointing year for the PTFA, sadly due to the Coronavirus pandemic and resulting lockdown and school closure, we were unable to hold the majority of our planned fundraising events. We are looking forward to the year ahead with plenty of plans for Covid-safe fundraising, in line with government guidelines, so we can continue to support the school in the 2020/21 academic year.

The fund-raising events that we managed to hold this year included; a school disco, Christmas fair, Fab-Bricks Lego order, quiz and puddings night, and an Easter egg sale. These were organised and run by parents, teachers and children from the school, and helped us raise almost £1,350 for the school. We are very grateful to all those who helped run these events, to the local businesses who supported them and to everyone who came along and took part. In addition to this we received £6,000 through successful grant applications.

Sadly, only half the classes in the school were able to hold their cake sale, with cakes being provided by the children's families. Each class cake sale raised over £100 for use by the class on equipment, activities or trips. The money from each cake sale is reserved for the children in that class, and any unspent money is carried over with the children into their next year. Those that had their cake sale cancelled were awarded £100 each from PTFA reserve funds so they didn't miss out.

About the PTFA

The principal role of the PTFA (Parents, Teachers, Friends Association) at Newton Poppleford Primary School is to support the school and its children, particularly through fund-raising activities, allowing the funding of school trips, classroom resources, and educational experiences. All parents, carers and teachers from the school are automatically members, and other friends of the school can become members.

The PTFA is registered as a charity under the name "Newton Poppleford School Association" with charity number #1015155. The PTFA is run by a committee who are elected each year by PTFA members at the Annual General Meeting. Regular PTFA meetings are held throughout the year, and all parents, teachers and other members are invited to attend. The PTFA always welcomes suggestions for future activities and events and any significant expenditure must be voted on by the parents and teachers present at a PTFA meeting.

The PTFA follows a model constitution provided by PTA-UK.

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Principle PTFA events held during the year

Guy face competition

We raised £9. Sadly, the PTFA was not involved in the parish Bonfire Night this year.

School disco

We raised £235. The disco was provided for free through a prize won by parent Sarah Furzer, it was great fun and enjoyed by all.

Fab-Bricks Lego order

We raised £57. This was the first time using this company to buy personalised Lego figures and keyrings, while uptake was good and quality and service was excellent, there was not as many orders as expected.

Christmas fair

We raised £630. This was a well attended event, aided by a beautiful performance from the school's KS2 choir.

Quiz and puddings night

We raised £188. This was a great evening for the grown-ups! Thanks are extended to our fun quiz master, Chris Burhop, who set the questions himself making the evening varied and enjoyable for everyone.

Easter egg sale

We raised £160. Sadly, the Easter eggs for the cancelled Easter Eggstravaganza where unable to be used, so we sold them off in the playground instead. Many thanks to parent Kelly Abbot for the donated eggs.

Giving Machine

We received £66.03. This has not been as well used this year as last.

Grant applications

We received £5,000 from the Edwin & Joyce Hill Charitable Trust, which is a huge sum to put together with the grants received last year towards building the sensory garden on school grounds. Many thanks to the Trustees for this very generous donation. We also received £500 from Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council Community Fund and a £500 grant from Learning Through Nature in the form of equipment and staff training, both for the school allotment project (see below).

Kindly donated to the PTFA

We received a generous donations from Beauty Box, author Jo Earlam and artist Vicky Morgan. We also received prizes from local businesses, helping us to raise funds from the school. We would like to particularly mention the following local business (in no particular order): Sweet Sensations, Pebbles Health & Beauty, and Beauty Box, with our sincerest gratitude. We would also like to thank parent Toby Taylor for donating a Christmas tree for the school hall.

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Projects funded by the PTFA

Outside spaces campaign

The PTFA remains committed to the ongoing outside spaces campaign to help re-landscape the outdoor areas of the school since the rebuild, in collaboration with school staff. This year we have been focussed on the school allotment and sensory garden.

School allotment

The PTFA arranged the funding and installation of the school allotment, which is ongoing, but has already yielded quite an impressive crop! The chair would like to express her thanks to all the parents and staff who have given up their weekend time to build the allotment, with special mention to Mr Vaughan and Mr Ableson. The allotment project has been funded through grants, donations, and existing PTFA funds. With sincerest gratitude to the following;

- Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council A £500 community project grant.
- Learning Through Nature A £500 grant in the form of equipment (trowels, forks, gloves, kneeling mats, watering cans, term time planting guides) and staff training.
- The Tool Shed Donated refurbished gardening tools.
- South West Water Donated a water butt.
- Andy Rowse at Rowse Tree Surgery Donated woodchip.
- John & Lynn at Windsor Turf Donated compost.
- Various parents and members of the local community Donated a greenhouse, greenhouse shelving, paving slabs, garden storage boxes, vegetable seeds, and horse manure.
- Many thanks to HCT Turf and East Devon Decking4U, who arranged discounted top soil and timber.

Sensory garden

The sensory garden project is still in the planning phase, with progress hampered by the school shut down. However, some funding is now in place, totalling £9,379, so we are able to move forward with finalising the plans and beginning building work. The chair offers sincere thanks to the following for their generous grants towards this project; E & J Hill Charitable Trust, Norman Family Charitable Trust, Gibbon Family Trust, and Waitrose Community Matters Fund.

What the PTFA funds provided

This year, the following has been provided with PTFA funds through requests from teaching staff;

- Whole school theatre trip to the pantomime
- Christmas crafting activities
- Leavers gifts for preschool graduates
- Early Years phonics books
- Dance workshop
- Puppet show
- Art workshop
- Pottery workshop

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PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

A new PTFA committee will be elected at the AGM on 16th November 2020 in a virtual meeting held via Zoom. All parents and other PTFA members are encouraged to attend.

Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all the parents, school staff, and family members who have supported the PTFA – in many cases taking a leading role in organising fundraising events or running stalls. Our events could not happen without the support of a wonderful team of volunteers, helping to raise money and bringing the school and wider community together.

The PTFA could not continue without your support.

Tilli Beglin (Chair)