

## A brief reflection – PTA meeting

31 January 2024

My name's Bianca, I have a daughter in year 2, however I've been at the school for 9 years as I have an older child in secondary school. If you don't know who I am, I was the "very chilly mum" selling mulled wine at the Christmas fair in minus temperatures and roped a friend in (whose children have left the school) to help out, as we didn't have enough volunteers.

Last night, I attended the PTA meeting – which I always try to do. Sadly, it wasn't as well attended as previous years. For the people who attended, we got a glass of Prosecco, beer or wine - which was a welcome treat after a hard day.



I enjoy these meetings as it's a great way to meet other parents in other year groups, build community and show a genuine interest in what's happening at the school, which my children see. It's also a fantastic way in which I can see how my personal skills can be used to help raise money for improvements to the school, which my child/children will benefit from.

In previous years the PTA (all the parents and teachers in the school) raised money to fund things like the interactive whiteboards you see in your children's classrooms, the markings and numbers on the playing areas, the solar panels on the roofs of the "new" classrooms (which were new a long time ago, but still feel new 😊), among other things which have greatly helped the teachers, school and most importantly, the children.

At last night's meeting, Cath and Cat told us all about the events which will be taking place

this year – including a new one, which wasn't on the list in last weeks' newsletter as it was just approved – the "Yes" day on the 29<sup>th</sup> Feb, stay tuned for more details about this, I hear it's going to be an enhanced/unique mufti day, which the children are going to have a lot of fun with.

Cath and Cat also told us about how they are planning to spend the money raised this year which will help to improve things for all of our children (while they are still at the school – **which is a very important thing to note**)

Example of ways in which I've helped out is manning a stall at a fair – sometimes for an hour, sometimes for a little longer; baking cakes and cookies; sorting out the PTA room, which always needs a good cleaning out and organising, especially after the big fairs; creating posters; creating fair booklets; one year I did a PTA admin role (secretary); I've done a class rep role every alternative year; gardening at the cottage when it got overgrown and running the Richmond May Fair stall, many moons ago. I haven't done all these things at once as I work full time too, so have to organise my time effectively around these things and around my children, but have managed to get involved and meet fantastic parents along the way.

If you're able to get involved in any way for future events, please do - we always need medical staff for the first aid station, cake bakers, giving an hour of your time to help clean up as well as a multitude of many other small tasks which, if we have a lot of "hands on deck", makes everyone's lives easier and allows those people who are volunteering to also enjoy the events with their children for a part of it.

I hope to see you at the next meeting or at the upcoming Bingo night – which I hear will be a lot of fun (if you don't know what Bingo is, google it), we recently did a night like this at Grey Court, a secondary school down the road, and it was absolutely fantastic. I'm sure the one at The Vineyard will be just as brilliant!