

PTA Chairs Report
Annual General Meeting - 5 October 2022

Welcome to the PTA AGM for the 2022/23 school year and thank you for all for attending tonight. This is the first hybrid meeting in a while, allowing us to be back face to face and remote from home - so welcome all.

I would just like to start by thanking my co-team (Rachel and Sarah) as I took on the role of Chair (from Vice-chair) earlier this year in February. As a core team of 3, it has been difficult to arrange events in amongst all working full time and having our own families, but with planning and determination I am proud that we have pulled together and managed a few successful events for the children (and parents) after battling through covid, lockdowns and restrictions over the last years. I feel we needed that face-to-face touch to showcase what the PTA is about and to explain the link we can provide, as well as key fundraising measures.

The film and disco nights earlier this year went down really well, both had strong attendance and the feedback was great to receive.

When taking on the chair role, I wanted to make clear a few changes and these were to have an actively managed PTA Facebook page that was engaging and clear, with the aim of promoting school updates and newsletters that were sent out to parents/carers also.

I also wanted to encourage growth and support by reaching out to those who have helped at events previously and could not only lend a hand again but also their expertise and knowledge. To date we are building our support network and we continually welcome new faces – so please continue to spread the word.

At present, we have our largest event coming up in 11 days – the Circus! The ticket sales and uptake have been strong (over 350 sold) and I'm pleased with how this has all come together to date to make what we think will be a great day and experience for our school and local community. We have advertised in a number of ways to encourage a great turnout and create a memorable atmosphere. Extended family/friends are able to buy tickets, please refer them to the link on our Facebook page.

Previous events I've helped to be involved with include the Christmas 2021 Rainbow Raffle, Christmas shopping events and Santa, Non-uniform days and the Easter Trail around Berewood.

I've also looked to encourage further use of **Amazon smile** and the **Havant Lottery**.

Amazon smile is free to use and gives the school donations based on your spending so a great way to support us without doing anything more!

The lottery is being involved for a chance of winning prizes – the jackpot being £25k! There is no minimum commitment cost or term, so please only join if you can, and thank you to those already playing (and good luck!) from us all.

Both details of these are on our Facebook page, pinned in the Featured sections.

Next, I would like to publicly say **THANK YOU** to **ALL** of our helpers at the events this year to date, and those that are already giving some time to the upcoming circus also.

It is true that without you all, these events cannot run safely and cooperatively so your assistance is greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to Miss Fitzgerald who joined us as a teacher liaison and her input and support have been priceless.

On that note, I just want to reiterate that a Parent Teacher Association is made up of key roles in order to continue to run, but needs extended support to turn ideas into reality.

With this in mind, roles that are available are Chair, Vice chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Additional roles to be filled are: pre-loved uniform manager, social media manager, on-spec helpers, year-group representatives, and ad-hoc event helpers.

Without new members the PTA will not continue, and I believe this would be to the detriment of our school and our children which I'm sure none of us want.

Looking ahead to the future and we are in agreement about accelerating the 'giving back to Berewood' stance as we are aware that the previous project of the outdoor stage has gone quiet. An update on this for you all is that the company who were producing it has unfortunately had to close due to the impacts of Covid and this leaves us with no alternatives that are local enough to keep the costs down. Therefore, we are proposing to look at a variety of new projects to fund and these will be in the next PTA meeting and beyond. Please do get in touch for additional suggestions as the more we have, the better decisions we can make, but also come along to vote also as your voice matters. We are in talks with Mr Leigh and the school council's views also for ideas.

We understand of late also and from very recent feedback in person, that the later meeting times (via Teams as they have been) have not been accessible to a lot of parents/carers. We have therefore listened to this feedback and will look to make earlier meeting times available so more can attend.

From today, I will be stepping down as Chair due to personal commitments, but I would like to be involved going forward as I have received some really good feedback across the school. For this, again, I would like to thank everyone who has worked with me and the team to help put on events and grow our reach to where we are now.

The PTA continues to make sure its accessibility and communications are clear and engaging whilst raising our brand and profile. As a reminder, please message us with any thoughts on events, things you would like to discuss at a meeting, or if you can spare time to help with an event on berewoodpta965@gmail.com. If we don't know about it, we can't act on it.

We truly appreciate your support and want to make your child's time at Berewood a memorable one where we can all get involved.

Thank you for listening and I will now handover to our Treasurer, Rachel, for her report on our financial year.

Mike Anthony
Chair
05/10/2022