

Lace Hill Academy - PTA Chair Report

Annual AGM

Thursday 20th November 2025

Welcome everyone, thank you for attending the 2025 AGM.

Having completed 1 year in my role as Co-Chair and being involved with the PTA for 3 years, I can truly say it is a labour of love. There is such a sense of achievement and delight when our fundraising events are a success, and seeing our community of families enjoying the events and connecting with our school makes all the time spent planning worthwhile.

Purpose of the PTA

The objectives of our school PTA are to organise fundraising events and activities and make these as much fun as possible for the children, to involve as many of our school community as we can and to access funding and grants on behalf of the school where applicable.

All funds raised and spent are for the benefit of the children and to enhance their learning experience. As parents, grandparents, carers, teachers and TAs of the children of the school, we are automatically members of the PTA and anyone can volunteer to help the PTA at any time no matter how big or small the task.

We have been a registered charity since February 2023. I still believe we are not using this status to its full potential, there are plenty of opportunities going forward for grants and other donations. It would be a wonderful next step to have a PTA member dedicated to finding and applying for the many grants that are available.

As we are a registered charity, all of our trustees have a legal responsibility to act in our charity's best interests, manage our resources responsibly and act with reasonable care and skill.

We are building our support network and we continually welcome new faces – so please continue to spread the word. We seek to increase active engagement with the PTA which helps us to continue to facilitate events for the children to enjoy and make lasting memories.

You don't need to be a committee member to be involved!

A summary of key successes from the past year

We held a range of events over the last year, and our success continues to gain momentum. Our autumn 2024 activities included a Glow Disco, Christmas trail, the Buckingham Christmas Parade and our Christmas hamper raffle. We won 1st place at the parade and it's now a key event in our diary!

In March, the book fair returned which resulted in a £469.75 voucher for school to purchase books. We supported school at the World Book Day breakfast, it was a fantastic morning, with a buzz of book characters and parents filling the hall.

We also saw the return of the Make £5 Grow challenge, raising over £1000, plus £351 for year 6 leavers party. The marketplace we held was amazing with so many of our families attending. Everyone did an outstanding job, and it was great to see the entrepreneurship flourish within our pupils.

We gifted each child an easter egg ahead of the easter break.

The Summer Fair was yet again a great success and combined with the Summer Raffle, we raised over £3000 profit. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our school and local area community for continuing to help make these events successful.

We continued the Frozen Fridays and hot chocolate stands which are always a great source of income and excitement for our children.

We are constantly learning and growing. I hope that those who have given feedback on our events, feel listened to and we are grateful to all those who have given such positive feedback as well. It really helps encourage us to keep improving.

How the PTA has benefited pupils

This year we funded several enrichment projects for each year group. We have also supplied 15 Ipads with the charging stations and cases, costing £4800.

The PTA have also funded Glockenspiels for whole school use, and new bikes and trikes for early years.

I am so thankful to all those who have donated pre-loved uniforms. We have sorted out a storage solution and now offer pre-loved school uniforms regularly. We all know how stretched our budgets are and being able to offer truly affordable uniform items benefit many in our community.

Our buddy bench has been creatively painted by last year's year 6 class, and after a varnish coating to protect it from wear and tear, will be placed in the playground.

What's planned for the year?

We will be taking part again in the Buckingham Christmas Parade with the aim of retaining first place, exploring a joint summer event with Bourton Meadow Academy and continuing with PTA treat days like, frozen Fridays and hot chocolate and cookies in the colder months.

Our focus, with the guidance of the school senior team is the library refurbishment and a new sensory room, which will be funded by obtaining grants through Screwfix, Tesco and Waitrose.

It is always fun and crazy at times, but through it all, I have never regretted being involved and encourage others to join in as much or as little as they like. We are always looking for input and ideas from members new and old who are also willing to help implement them and in doing so, support our school. If you have any suggestions, these can be made at PTA meetings, email to the PTA or find us in the playground and have a chat.

Treasurer's report

Thanks to those who went the extra mile

The AGM is the PTA's only formal meeting of the year, covering committee elections, and the treasurer's annual financial report. The PTA is a committee elected each year at the AGM, at the last AGM we elected 7 committee members which reinforces what great support we have and proves through all the hard work and efforts put in, the results are truly rewarding.

This year have had two resignations from the committee, we understand that personal circumstances change and we are very grateful for the time and effort that these two committee members put in.

In line with our constitution, re-election needs to take place for all roles. Committee election is completed via nomination and a second to the proposed motion and will take place in this meeting.

Before we commence with the formalities, I would like to take a few moments to extend some thanks. Firstly, thank you to Pauline De Jager, our outgoing Chair. Pauline was the backbone of our PTA for the three years she spent on the committee. She was one of the founding members who restarted the PTA after covid, along with some other key members. We are grateful for their combined commitment, positivity and belief that we could create a strong PTA. We wish you all the best Pauline.

Being an active member of the PTA has been hard but we have done a great job and I am proud to work alongside you all. Further to the committee, I would like to thank all the teaching and office staff who also assist the PTA whenever needed as this too is on top of their day-to-day commitments. The support and enthusiasm is much appreciated. Thank you to Mrs Jones, Miss Bitcliffe and Mrs Barson for their continued support and enthusiasm which is very much appreciated and welcomed.

We have also received many generous donations from local businesses, who have all been individually thanked but I want to give special thanks to Tim and his family from Manor Farm and Larder cafe, who always goes above and beyond no matter what we ask for.

Finally, it goes without saying, that without all the PTA helpers, who generously bake, man stalls, lend equipment, sponsor, donate and contribute, there would be no PTA events.

How to get involved

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. We have created a "Helping Hands" group on ClassList for anyone that is able to volunteer.

I hope this year that the PTA will continue build upon what we have previously achieved. Finally, I would like to finish the Chair's report by thanking everyone for attending tonight. We truly appreciate your support and want to make your child's time at Lace Hill Academy a memorable one.

Sincerely,

Pauline de Jager

PTA Chair

Commitment as a committee member

As we are a registered charity we are required to hold at least three meetings per year. We have elected to hold a meeting every half term which is six meetings per year. In order to get the full engagement from our committee members, we expect that all committee members attend at least three meetings in the year.

We also raise a number of requests that need to be voted on during the year via our WhatsApp and polls and we request that you reply to these promptly so we can proceed with funding or planning items.

Roles

Briefly the core roles are Chair, Treasurer and Secretary; we also then have standard committee members.

One of the rules of our constitution is that when your child completes school in July then you are no longer part of the PTA and cannot hold a core or committee position. As such we have a year 6 parent, our treasurer. I am also looking to step down as Chair next year.

In the event that they get re-elected, we have introduced the role of co-treasurer and co-chair with idea of having a handover period so please keep this in mind during the elections.

Elections