



MRJS PTA NEWS – September 2018

Wishing everyone a very happy 'back to school', (back to routine!) and a very big welcome to our newest parents joining the Mill Rythe Junior school family. I am sure you are all familiar with the role of the PTA in school, and happily I work very closely with Lou Earp at Mill Rythe Infant school, both on the committee of HIS and also from a campus perspective. Like the Infant school, the PTA has its own Facebook group and all are welcome to join, we also have individual year group pages and often we post all pertinent information there - just search for Mill Rythe Junior School PTA.

Thanks to this form of social media, we tend not to email or hold meetings but if Facebook does not suit you, then please let me know via the School Office. We are always happy to have helpers and if you prefer a text/email to get involved, I would be happy to ensure you are included. We welcome everyone who can help whether it is at an event or in the preparation. No one needs to do everything and the school office, and teaching team are very supportive of our activities.

What did we achieve in 2017-2018?

In September, the school asked if we were up to the challenge of achieving 'Class Libraries and Lockers for each child'. We had a fantastic year and were able to support not only these special projects but also some other important and lovely things in school.

Just a few to mention:

- **In-Class Libraries and a set of 6 'Must Reads' for every class** across the school enabling each child to have access to a library just for them – in addition to the school library.



- Funded **a school locker for every child**... who would have thought that these would have created such enjoyment for the children? However, it was true! Every child has their own locker so that they can store their items with a sense of pride and school are able to ensure that books are looked after.
- Contributed to the **new school hall floor**, updating the heart of the school to be a more modern and inviting place.
- **Playground Equipment** - through our lolly Thursdays, we funded over £200 of new play equipment for break times, skipping ropes, balls etc.
- **New Basketball Hoops and Play Kit** for use in school games
- **Playground Refurbishment**... we have **some** (Not all!!) funds put aside for the playground...once we have the new building completed, we will start work with planning area by area on how we can improve the children's break times...

None of these wonderful things would have been possible without the support of the parents, the engagement from the children and the vision of the school.

So.....what's next? And what events do we have planned....? Here's a quick snapshot...

Future Events and Fund Raising.

Currently we still need to save a lot more money for our playground. We hope to achieve this through the following events and utilising the HI5 Venture. Whilst raising money for this fantastic cause is important, we really want to help make memorable times at school for the children so we have a mix of events to keep balance.



Textile Recycling Bin

You may have noticed the campus textile recycling bin in the car park. All credit to Melissa Green and Mr Miles for arranging this. It has been advertised with the Infant school and we split the proceeds of this with their PTA. We have raised about **£150** since January so every item really does help.

Easy fundraising

Our Easy fundraising site continues throughout the year. It costs nothing to click here before you shop online in the usual way and every penny you spend raises money for our school.

There are just 47 of us using the site today... surely there are 1 or 2 more online shoppers out there? Plus you can ask other family members to join us. It is possible to have more than one 'cause' and alternate between these causes, so you can spread the shopping love.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/millyrthejuniorschool/>

This raised about **£225 in 4 months**, so please do consider using this when you shop online and particularly as we have the festive season approaching.

Film Club

We have a termly film club on a Friday evening (3.30-5.30) – watch out for dates and information on this. The children really enjoy this, and last year we **raised £750** from ticket fees and sweet sales.

Discos.

We will hold a 'Spooky' disco as well as an Easter disco – Dates to follow for these. Last year we raised just under **£1000** through ticket sales, sweet sales and an amazing chocolate raffle. The children especially love getting the teachers up to dance and show off their moves....

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas fayre takes the shape of a 'secret shopping' morning for the children where they can buy their loved ones a special gift for Christmas. This is followed by an open shopping and games afternoon where you are able to come and enjoy the fun. More details will follow on this. Not only is it a truly fantastic (and tiring) day but it also made us **over £2500 last year.... A target to beat?**

We also held 'Lolly Thursdays', Cake Sales and a 'Swimathon'..... all massive contributors to our cause, and great fun for all involved.

Mother & Father's Day Events

****New for 2018/19****

Watch this space for news of these 2 new events which I think will be very special for the children!

A fun (& busy) year ahead at MRJS... and then there's the HI5 Events!

Many thanks

Hayley Warner (Hayleyjwarner@hotmail.com)