Friends of Otterham School Chair's Report 2025/2026

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for giving up your time and coming along this afternoon to our AGM.
It's a useful time to remind everyone of the role of our PTA and it's objectives as set out in the constitution we adopted last year.
Essentially, we are here to advance the education of our pupils by developing relationships between staff, parents and others associated with the school, but most importantly we engage in activities and provide facilities, equipment, funds etc to support the school in their aims.

As most of you are aware, we successfully registered as a charity last year, so we are now governed by the Charity Commission. To fulfil these responsibilities, we have elected trustees, those currently being Helen Ward, Debbie Sharp, Jo Kenyon, Clare Dalton and myself.

We have had some new members join the PTA throughout the course of the past year, so thank you for joining us and we hope you will continue volunteering through the next year and beyond!

We are delighted to say we have yet again had some very successful fundraising events since our last AGM.

A quiz night was held last April which raised £752.00. This was a super evening which brought parents, staff and the wider community together all with the aim of raising funds to secure our purchase of the play train for the children. Large thanks go to Jo Kenyon and her family for the support they gave to make this event such a success.
Whilst we will soon be embarking on our sponsored walk again this week, back in May 2025, a fantastic sum of £1543.00 was raised. Following this was Sports Day and the Summer Fayre which raised another £554.00.
We were kindly donated a weekend ticket to the Healing Fields Festival which we raffled off.

Into the Autumn term we had the Great Otterham Sleepover, which raised £714.00. Our thanks go to the staff and Friends members who were involved to ensure the enjoyable event went ahead.

As always, the Christmas period was endlessly busy with events and fundraising, but also much delight was had by our pupils.
This year we held a Preloved Christmas Jumper Sale, which raised £49.40, but was also very useful and appreciated by many parents.

The annual Christmas Shop was another sell out, taking £442.00 before expenses came out. The addition of cracker making this year was loved by one and all, and we hope for it to become an annual tradition.
And finally, the Christmas Fayre and Raffle raised £842.00 before expenses. We are endlessly thankful to the local businesses that support our raffle year after year.

Somehow in the latter months of 2025, we also managed to squeeze in another whole school tea towel and a Bag2School collection which raised £96.00.

February 2026 saw us revisit the Wilsey Down to hold another amazing Bingo evening. After expenses, we raised a phenomenal £1663.34. It's just a shame the next one in the diary isn't until February 2028!

Below is a list of the most recent trips, equipment and experiences the Friends have contributed to.

- Gifts for each of our year 6 leavers (this was a personalised scientific calculator for each child)
- Books for each class for their English schemes
- The bus for a Class 1 and 2 trip to Exmoor Zoo in November 2025
- The little extras on the Christmas Dinner
- Party food and prizes for Christmas Parties
- Individual Christmas present of a book for each child
- Buses for two theatre trips – Aliens Love Underpants and The Boy at the back of the Class
- The whole school cinema trip to the Regal Cinema on the last day of term in December 2025
- First Aid training for the whole school in January 2026 with Joe Rice
- £700 towards Lego Robotics for each class in STEM week
- Book prizes for World Book Day
- Chocolate eggs for Easter Bingo
- £470.00 transport for the end of school trip to the Milky Way
- £155.00 for a bus to transport children to Tintagel for the sponsored walk
- £600.00 to purchase White Rose Maths Booklets for the pupils to ease time pressures on teachers and the need for photocopying.

On top of all these expenses, we secured the installation of the new play train in the playground for the children in September 2025. This was a large expense, but one which we had been fundraising towards for some time. It is already a much loved and well used piece of playground equipment.

Upcoming events for the Friends include the sponsored walk this week, and the Summer Fayre next month.

All that’s left for me to say, is a huge thank you to each and everyone of the volunteers on the PTA. Without your endless time, purchasing of Christmas gifts, securing of raffle prizes, little errands, imagination and energy, none of these events would be possible.

Lisa Ward
(Chair of Friends of Otterham Community Primary School)