

Friends of St. Olcan's Primary School

Chairpersons Report 2024/2025

Overview

As I come to the end of my term as Chair of Friends of St Olcans, I look back with some pride in the community we have begun to rebuild through last year's family events. The financial climate of the last 3-4 years has been extremely difficult for families and for overall school budgets.

It cannot be underestimated the role the Friends of St Olcans have had to soften the financial burden on many families that have children attending the school. As you will hear from the Treasurers report and income and expenditure report, you will see a number of ways the funds raised by the PTA have support pupils and families in our community to experience modern learning with modern equipment. This past year we fully funded the new Maths Scheme, provided new iPads, a new PA system, sponsored bus costs for W5 and school Pantos as well as continuing to support the P7 leavers hoodies.

Having been Chair of the group for almost 3 schools years, I have worked alongside many dedicated volunteers in helping raise funds to support the teaching staff at St. Olcans. Below you will find a breakdown of the income and expenditure over the last 12 months.

Since last years AGM, our PTA have raised £7044.08. This is a fantastic effort and coming from several events throughout the school year. These events have included:

INCOME 2024-2025

DETAILS	AMOUNT
Bingo	£3,262.30
DAERA Grant October	£1,131.01
DAERA Grant April	£1,758.31
Halloween Disco	£120.00
Alphagraphic Cards	£40.93
Asda Cashpot	£141.53
Peter Kay Raffle	£590

EXPENDITURE 2024-2025

DETAILS	AMOUNT
Bingo Expenses	£380
PA System & Ipad	£1,364.09
Speaker Cable	£50
6 Ipads & Covers, Water Boiler & 4 Flasks	£2,221.15
New Maths Scheme	£2,759.40
Acid to wash School	£60
Payment to Stewartie to clean the school	£20
Flowers	£40
Payment towards Bus to W5	£200
Bus to Panto	£335
Casey Oils Christmas Raffle	£100
Parentkind	£125
Leaver's Hoodies	£68
Peter Kay Tickets	£125
£5 per child towards End of Year Trip	£360
End of Year Disco Refreshments	£84.93
Bank Fees	£64.13

Concluding Remarks:

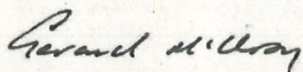
As my tenure as Chairperson comes to an end, I take great pride that as a committee we have increased volunteer participation. This in turn has increased the profile of the PTA. However, as I do step down, I make reference to my previous comments at the last committee meeting; I am unsure how the PTA model in its current form will support the school going forward, nor what its role is going to be. I have seen the PTA role being downgraded year on year with many Friends of St Olcans events or supported events now being undertaken by the school.

This is not a criticism of the model or of the school taking on events, it just questions the need or role of the PTA. One of the largest expenditures this last year was the purchase of the new Maths Scheme. I am somewhat frustrated that this has not yet been rolled out to all students and classes as this was the expectation on agreement to fund it. As chair of the committee I like to fundraise with purpose, knowing that families and supporters for the PTA are aware of the end goal or project. Over my term we have never had this vision and that is something that has swayed my reasoning for stepping down.

Going forward and under new leaderships, I believe the PTA can make a massive contribution to the school and the family network in Armoy as a community. I do however feel that I am not the person to lead it going forward. My love for this PTA and to support it has always been there, but, I have been unable to work towards a vision and feel that there is no communication between the PTA and school Leadership that would allow me to continue the project.

Being able to Chair this group as a role is a busy, yet valuable one, I am hugely thankful for Kelly (Secretary) and Moira (Treasurer) for the valuable work they have done throughout the last year. I am grateful to all members of the PTA for their efforts this year also. You have given up your time to support our efforts in enhancing the school for the pupils. This is very much appreciated.

Thank you for all your support in 2024/25. And best wishes to the new incoming Committee and Trustees.



Gerard McIlroy

Chairperson

Friends of St. Olcans Primary School