



**SS Philip & James Primary School
Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
Registered Charity No. 1121283**

PTA Chair Report Academic Year 2014-2015

We (Lara & Jen) have been incredibly fortunate to co-chair the Phil & Jim Parent Teacher Association (PTA) over the past year. 2014-2015 was successful on many levels, but we would not have been able to achieve any of that success without the support of the school and so many generous, dedicated, hardworking parents who consistently volunteer their time, efforts, and talents to our events. So, thank you! Thank you to the teachers and the staff of Phil & Jim, to the parents and carers who always step up to help out, and to the tireless class representatives, event organisers, and committee members who put in so many hours to bring us such fabulous social and fundraising events!

Our PTA exists to provide the families of Phil & Jim with fun and interactive social activities that strengthen the relationship between home and school. We use these events to fundraise, not only for programs and activities at Phil & Jim, but for charities in need around the world.

Every parent and teacher at Phil & Jim is a member of the PTA. The PTA Committee currently consists of five members, selected by vote at the Annual General Meeting in September 2014.

Co-Chairs: Jen Ingham and Lara Stokes

Secretary: Lisa Guppy

Treasurer: Tania Wilson

Class Rep Coordinator: Emma Dadson

We had many goals when we started the year, but one we really wanted to focus on at the start was getting new families involved with the wonderful community we have built here at Phil & Jim. We wanted to make sure that new parents had an understanding of what the PTA was for, what our events were all about, and how they could be a part of them.

We wrote a **PTA Welcome Pack** that went out to all new parents at Induction Day in July 2014. This welcome pack is now part of a new School Welcome pack that goes out to each new student starting at Phil & Jim!

On the first day of EYFS, we held a coffee morning for all new parents in the school hall. We had almost 50 people attend! Hopefully this “First Day” coffee is a tradition that will continue; last week we held one for this year and once again had a fantastic turn out!

Having two co-chairs with our daughters in the EYFS helped, too! We were able to check in throughout the year to make sure new parents in the early years understood what was going on with the PTA.

Another goal was to create a more social atmosphere for the families of Phil & Jim. At the beginning of the year we held a social event, “**Teatime at The Anchor.**” The time slot the Anchor gave us was not the best and we only had about 30 people attend. However, those who did thought it was a great idea and really enjoyed themselves. In the future if we try something like this we will need to tweak the logistics of when/where to hold such an event.

Cake Sales

Our (almost!) weekly cakes sales are a Phil & Jim PTA staple and are incredibly successful. The proceeds from these sales go directly to the classroom teachers to buy supplies for the children throughout the year. Our thanks to **Emma and Sarah**, who organised cake sales for the John Radcliffe Children's Hospital and the Nepal Earthquake appeal. These charity cake sales were organised to highlight particular current events or needs within our community. By doing so we initiate conversation among the students, raise awareness of the events taking place outside the school gates, and encourage them to support charitable activities and volunteer themselves!

A Year in Review

Our efforts for the year generated nearly **£17,000** for Phil & Jim. Here's a look at what we accomplished in just one year.

The **2015 Phil & Jim Calendar** was once again a huge hit. The design and photos make a wonderful keepsake that is showcased all over North Oxford.

Our **International Evening** in November brought out the talents of our school choir for the first time this year, as well as the feast of nations that was such a treat to taste! This fun, social evening displayed the range of cultures our community brings together and raised more than £400 for our sister school in South Africa!

The holiday season was festive and full of cheer at Phil and Jim! With help from a special guest from the North Pole, the **Christmas Bazaar and Santa's Grotto** were an outstanding and beautiful event. The children have a ball shopping and feel such pride in purchasing gifts for their friends and families.

We created a display and stood outside the EYFS gates several times in order to show new parents what exactly the **Christmas Card** project is and how lovely the children's artwork looks when turned into a greeting card. Thanks to this, we saw a significant increase this year in the artwork submitted to create **Christmas cards**.

Like every January, our annual **Quiz Night** once again sold out! This fun event provided an evening of friendly competition coupled with delicious food and drink. Always a fun night out, Quiz Night is a staple social function and fundraiser that we will hold for years to come!

The much loved **Mother's Day Breakfast** in March provided the mums of Phil & Jim a delicious breakfast treat with flowers, music, manicures and more.

In May we opened our doors to the community and not only raised money for Phil & Jim but saved lots of well-loved toys, equipment and clothing from landfill at our annual **Nearly New Sale**.

The biggest event of the year, the **Phil & Jim Summer Fete**, was one of the most successful fetes we have ever held. The weather was kind to us and everyone who attended enjoyed fun and games, a swing ride, delicious food and amazing music and talent from the children. The Summer Fete needed more than 120 parent volunteers to run so smoothly, and we are so fortunate to have so many parents, children and teachers help to make that happen. The Summer Fete really is a wonderful way to finish up the school year and bring everyone together to celebrate the Phil & Jim family that we work so hard to build throughout the year.

The cup once again found a home on the shelf in reception as Phil & Jim was victorious over St. Aloysius at the **2015 Aristotle Cup**. A fantastic day of football fun was had by all who attended.

To complement the fundraising that we accomplished from all the events mentioned above, in 2014 we also introduced a new way for parents to give to the school, **Easy Fundraising**. This “easy” online shopping tool was incredibly successful our first year with it, and we hope to surpass our donations in 2015/16!

While all the fundraising did indeed raise funds for Phil & Jim, we hope that the events and activities that the PTA organised throughout the year provided the opportunity for parents to meet and socialise with one another, to see and speak to teachers outside the classrooms, and to give the children a chance to show their musical, artistic, and athletic talents as well.

With the help of all the parents who donated time and money, the Phil & Jim PTA was able to grant the school money for the following in 2014/15:

- £100 to each classroom

- MyMaths subscription and Numicon equipment

- Roofing over Lilac 3 entrance/courtyard

- Laminators, digital cameras and memory cards

- A “Santa” gift (book) for each child in the school

- Outdoor Sound System

- Annual Life Bus and Residential contributions

- Playground Art

- The artwork is completed in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 areas. Take a look when you have a chance! There is still more on order to be completed soon for the Lilac end of the Key Stage 2 playground.

As you can see, we had a fantastic year! We are fortunate to receive so much support from the teachers, staff, parents, and children of Phil & Jim, but also local businesses within our community. We look forward to the year ahead and all the exciting projects in store for our PTA.

With gratitude,

Jen Ingham and Lara Stokes
Phil & Jim PTA Co-Chairs 2014-2015