



PTA Questionnaire Response

Thank you everyone for replying to the PTA questionnaire. We got a lot of valuable information and I have provided a summary below.

Events

People were very happy with the events the PTA have provided in the past. There were also some great suggestions for possible future events and I would love for people to run with some of their ideas. So, if you want to take the lead on something new and exciting then email me on pta@benrhydding.bradford.sch.uk.

Helping out

Loads of you were up for volunteering at future events – yay! Lots of people also offered to manage a one-off event. To all of you, keep an eye on the newsletter and get in touch about helping out/running specific events. Please don't keep quiet because you are shy or worried you don't have experience. We are very welcoming and have a lot of resource to help with planning.

There was mention of the lack of men getting involved in the PTA but I'm sure you menfolk can put that right this year, yes?

Perception of PTA

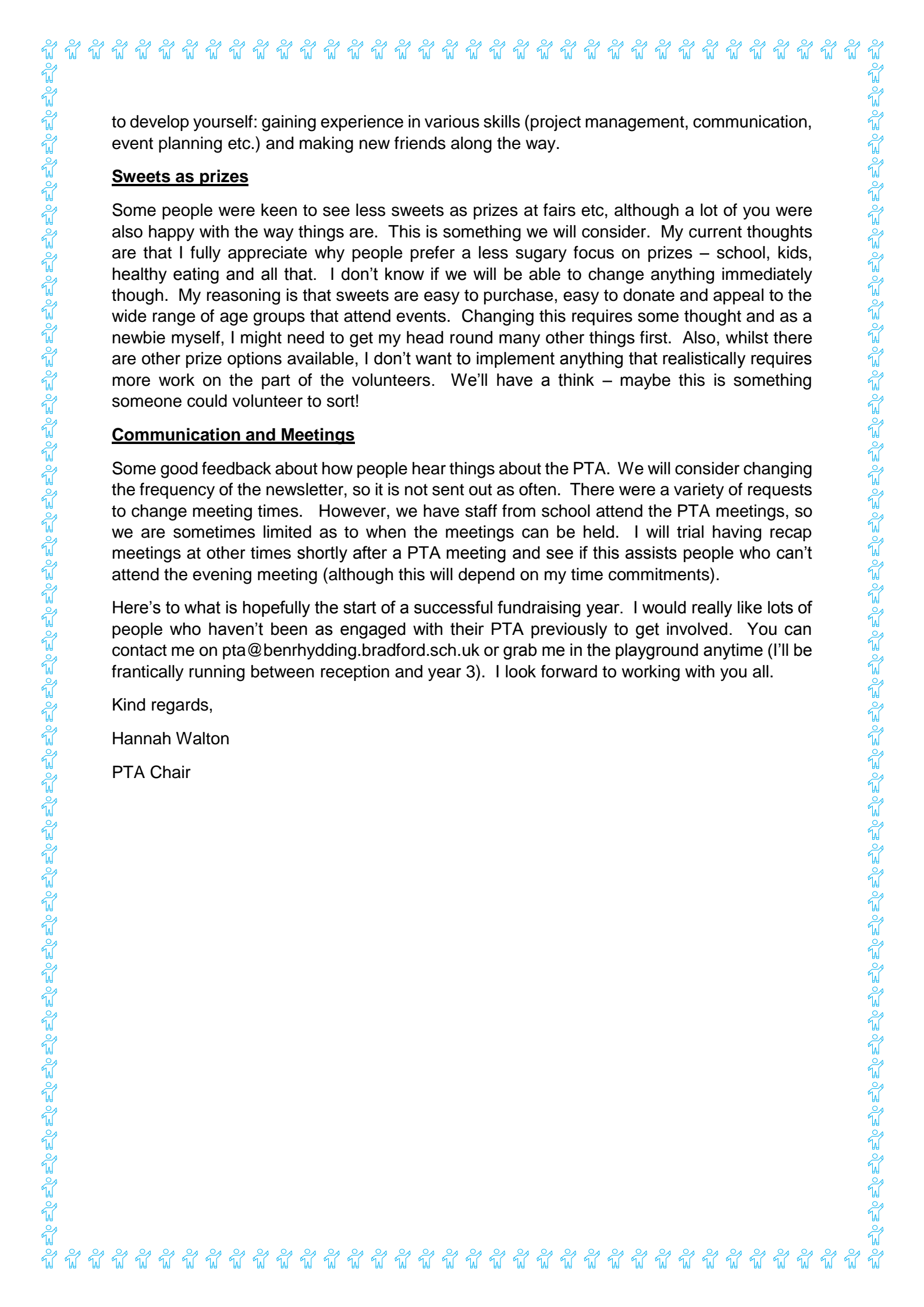
This was interesting. There seems to be a perception for some that the PTA is a bit cliquy. I think this is a perception of PTAs in general (I personally hate the term PTA). Knowing people involved in previous years, however, I know they are a lovely, friendly group who are very helpful and supportive. They are naturally a group of friends because they have got to know each other through the PTA (they have also probably roped in their friends originally to help with PTA events – I certainly plan to). I suspect they have also been the ones who have had to organise events after their requests for volunteers have been overlooked and quite often this can be a thankless task. So, I'll offer a big thank you now!

I'd also mention that the PTA of past years are very experienced and competent at organising events. I think it can sometimes be a bit off-putting for newbies when jobs get sorted without the need for much discussion. This may lead to feeling out of the loop. However, luckily for you, I am neither experienced or competent and need all the help I can get! I will be relying on the super and experienced helpers of the past and the enthused people who want to get involved for the first time. You are all welcome!

Time Commitment

Quite a lot of you were worried about getting dragged into lots of events and maybe hadn't got involved for this reason. So, I think it is important to address this time commitment issue. Ahhhh, how to answer this...ok, realistically if you make yourself known, you will get asked to help with events. This is because you have shown willing and obviously money doesn't get raised/events planned/school supported without people helping. However, this doesn't mean you have to help. Just say no or set out exactly what capacity you have or what you want to do – I promise I won't take offence or gripe about it. In fact, it is something I plan to do too.

Of course, its not just about you sacrificing your free time. You may not believe it, but it is really rewarding knowing that you are helping your child's school. At the end of the day, you are supporting your child and their friends. Notwithstanding this, you will also get the chance



to develop yourself: gaining experience in various skills (project management, communication, event planning etc.) and making new friends along the way.

Sweets as prizes

Some people were keen to see less sweets as prizes at fairs etc, although a lot of you were also happy with the way things are. This is something we will consider. My current thoughts are that I fully appreciate why people prefer a less sugary focus on prizes – school, kids, healthy eating and all that. I don't know if we will be able to change anything immediately though. My reasoning is that sweets are easy to purchase, easy to donate and appeal to the wide range of age groups that attend events. Changing this requires some thought and as a newbie myself, I might need to get my head round many other things first. Also, whilst there are other prize options available, I don't want to implement anything that realistically requires more work on the part of the volunteers. We'll have a think – maybe this is something someone could volunteer to sort!

Communication and Meetings

Some good feedback about how people hear things about the PTA. We will consider changing the frequency of the newsletter, so it is not sent out as often. There were a variety of requests to change meeting times. However, we have staff from school attend the PTA meetings, so we are sometimes limited as to when the meetings can be held. I will trial having recap meetings at other times shortly after a PTA meeting and see if this assists people who can't attend the evening meeting (although this will depend on my time commitments).

Here's to what is hopefully the start of a successful fundraising year. I would really like lots of people who haven't been as engaged with their PTA previously to get involved. You can contact me on pta@benhydding.bradford.sch.uk or grab me in the playground anytime (I'll be frantically running between reception and year 3). I look forward to working with you all.

Kind regards,

Hannah Walton

PTA Chair