

PTA Report for Last Newsletter for 2020-2021
30 June 2021

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of yet another challenging and different school year. It has been rewarding to see how the children have adapted to all the changes and great to see how our parent community come together in times like these.

A Note of Thanks...

I would like to thank my entire committee for supporting the PTA by attending monthly zoom meetings and being active on our WhatsApp Class Rep chat. By voicing out concerns and suggestions, we can help one another with issues that arise and highlight them to the school to work on a solution together. Year after year, we have shown that the parents at KJS have strong ties within our community, and we are always present to support our children. Helen Keller, the American author, once said, 'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.'

Echoing this I would like to encourage more parents to come forward and get involved. The more involved you are, the better you can help your child and the school.

Thank you to our Y6 parents who have helped on the PTA and will be leaving the committee. I have enjoyed working alongside you.

I would also like to thank and express my gratitude to Candy So, our PTA Administrator, for her continuous hard work and dedication. Candy is the reason behind why our PTA office runs so smoothly. From transitioning uniform sales, to coming up the idea of our KJS 120-year Teddy Bears, to keeping all appointments with parents and always ready to help and answer questions from parents, and from me, on our Class Rep WhatsApp chat, Candy has always been ready to help. Her flexibility to adapt to changes and to keep our PTA office 'alive' is unwavering and I thank her for it.

Changes

The end of one thing signifies the beginning of another. I would acknowledge the changes that will take place after today.

Our Y6s will be leaving us to move on to high school. We wish them all the best in their next chapter of their lives and know they will do well given the six years of the education and experience they have had at KJS.

We will be saying goodbye to Neill O'Reilly, our principal. He started this journey with us four years ago and within that time, he changed the dynamics of the school. We have better technology, related products and learning resources at school, the children and teachers have been exposed to different learning environments and methods, and the entire campus has been used to its fullest capacity so our children could go back to full day school every day.

Neill has made sure that KJS stands at the forefront of all ESF schools, and I commend him for that. Perhaps one of the most significant changes that Neill made to the school was the revamping of our IT program. Within the first year, he made sure that all Year 4s to 6s have new laptops every three years and Year 1s to 3s new iPads or tablets. This move helped the children and teachers to transition from in-school learning to online learning and vice versa - a move which resulted in continuous learning for our children especially during the past two years.

To quote Henry Kissinger, former United States Secretary of State, 'The task of a great leader is to get their people from where they are to where they have not been.' Neill, you steered us seamlessly through

the many challenges our school community encountered, and we thank you for making lasting changes at our school.

Yesterday after the Y6 leavers' assembly we presented Neill with a card filled with messages from the PTA committee as well as a life-size KJS bear dressed in uniform. I thanked Neill on behalf of the parent community and Neill thanked the PTA committee and parents for working together throughout the years he has been at school.



The Y6 leavers also received a KJS Teddy Bear each with their name inscribed on the cloak of the bear, donated from the PTA.



Uniforms

The next big change is the central procurement of our school uniforms. Following the regulations of ESF, we will be transitioning to an online platform for the sale of all uniforms. Today, 30 June 2021, will be the last day for us to sell uniforms on site. Our PTA office will still exist; the only difference is that we will not be trading in uniforms anymore.

The new uniform website will be in operation from Monday 12 July 2021 with our current uniform pieces being sold on the clearance or sale section. Children have until the end of June 2024 to use the current uniform pieces and colours. Neill's letter sent out on Monday 28 June 2021 contains more detailed information.

New Committee

The beginning of a new school year means forming a new committee too. I would like to ask all parents at the school to please consider joining our PTA committee. Being involved in the PTA and being the Chair has taught me so much and I have had the chance to connect with so many parents, many of whom I would never have met otherwise.

If you can commit your time and be actively involved in the PTA, please also consider joining our core committee. I have served as the Chair for a number of years now and would like to hand over the baton to the next person who would be willing to lead the PTA.

Nominations for the committee and the core committee will be accepted at the start of the new academic year. It would be great, especially for parents of the younger year groups to be more involved.

Thank you everyone for another rewarding year and for giving me the chance to represent the parent body. It has been a truly educational experience, giving me the chance to work with different principals, teachers and parents. I am grateful.

I wish you and your families a happy and restful summer.

Kind regards,
Saloni Melwani
Chair, KJS PTA
2020-2021