

PTA Chairs Report 2020

Welcome to the PTA AGM for the 2019/2020 year and thank you all for your attendance this evening.

In view of the current Covid-19 restrictions we are holding this AGM via Zoom rather than our normal face to face meeting. We have already held regular PTA meetings successfully in this way and seen some new people join us.

The 2019/2020 year has been a challenging one, not only for us as individuals, but also in our communities and the wider world with the current pandemic. We started to have another successful year raising funds for the children, maintaining and improving on our funds year upon year. The Treasurer's report provided by Jackie will outline all of this in detail. We also started to spend time planning and preparing for events and discussing how best to use the funds that have been raised.

We can celebrate a very successful Christmas Fayre 2019 but sadly due to Covid-19 Lockdown, our Summer Fayre 2020 and May discos had to be cancelled. The Christmas Fayre 2019 raised over £2,800 and this reflects the hard work and dedication of our PTA team and fantastic volunteers. Unfortunately, we have also had to cancel the Christmas Fayre 2020 and October discos as current restrictions mean we are unable to hold them at this time. We are now looking at other ways to fundraise over the 2020/2021 year but are mindful that we all have very different personal and financial situations which may determine participation.

We continue to receive feedback regarding our fundraising events and are always looking to implement suggestions from within the PTA, parents and children. Some of these have been regarding environmental concerns and supporting the school and children in this area. We continue to look at this and make changes where we can.

We are always looking to try new events and ideas. With this in mind we have held a couple of PTA Coffee Mornings and started a School Lottery, with the first draw on 14 November 2020. The PTA also provided refreshments when Little Acorns opened its doors back in February 2020. It was lovely to welcome parents and children who attended and to introduce them to the PTA and what we do.

Shortly before Lockdown we were able to have a textile recycling bank delivered to replace the ad hoc collections we traditionally had throughout the year. This has been very successful and well supported with almost weekly collections by Bags of Help. Based on the demand we had a second bank located and it has helped us to raise much needed funds whilst we are restricted in what events we can hold.

In March this year we held an Extraordinary AGM to adopt a new Model Constitution and to change the PTA's name. Legislation has changed significantly since our last constitution was implemented in 1996, so we really need to adopt a new constitution that brings us into line going forwards. We are now known as Hazeldown Extended Schools PTA, which better reflects who and what we are as we embrace the Little Acorns as part of our school's community.

Finally, the PTA has been investing in its own resources. You may have noticed that we replace our storage shed outside the Year 4 classrooms back in February as the old one leaked. In August we built a large shed on the main playground by the Year 6 classrooms. The large shed is a shared storage space for school and the PTA.

I would like to thank our many fantastic volunteers for the time they give to help us run our events. It is appreciated and without them we would not be able to raise vital funds for resources across the school and to support our children's education. Any time that you can give to a stall or task makes a difference.

The core PTA committee is made up of a small group of committed parents. Each year as the current Year 6 children move on to the next stage of their education, we inevitably lose some experienced members and volunteers. It is important that we are able to pass on knowledge to each new committee, whilst supporting them as they get established. We will be discussing role changes as part of this evening's agenda and I would encourage any of you to consider now and in the future, the opportunity to be a member of the PTA. Without new members the PTA will not continue, and I believe this would be to the detriment of our school.

We often hear the comment that parents are too busy or work and therefore unable to help out. We too are busy working parents, but I strongly feel if we take or benefit from school then we should find a way to give back, however small it may seem. If you have a skill or interest that would be of benefit to the PTA, would like to take on responsibility for a stall at a fayre or could just give an hour at a disco whilst your child is attending these all help share the workload. The PTA is a great way to meet other families at our school and staff. We can show our children that we all have a social responsibility to our community.

With funding cuts and pressures on budgets it is important that the PTA exists to hold events which are great fun for our community and to ensure funding for extra resources are available. When I look around school now we have our lovely library environment, the fit trail, Chromebooks and IT equipment, playboat, toys for the pre-school and loads of amazing books to name but a few of the items our fund raising has gone towards.

We will continue to make sure the PTAs accessibility and communications are usable and engaging whilst raising our profile. You can get in contact with us via the school's website where our pages are regularly updated, check out our Facebook page and Instagram account or email us.

Thank you for listening and I will now handover to our Treasurer, Jackie, for her report on our financial year.

Ellen Palmer

Chair

04.11.2020