

## Chair's Report for 2019-2020

The role of the PFA is set out in our constitution (available on our website for all) and has not been changed in the past year: we exist to assist with building the social community of the school and to raise funds to create better learning experiences for our children. All parents are automatically members.

The Committee must be three at least and it took an EGM in November last year to confirm Jane Burke, Irenka Suto, Carolina Stannard and Angelina Bennett as Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Chair respectively - but we are supported by a wonderful events committee of volunteers and a similarly brilliant small team of year reps. We are an official charity and the trustees are Joseph McCrossan and the Committee. Bank Signatories include Jane, Carolina, Teeba Lundy and Elizabeth Callery. This year we had to have our finalised accounts for 2017/18 checked (as last year we raised over £25,000) and they were cleared as accurate and fit and proper. Our return to the charity commission was filed on time and has not been queried.

Every year we agree on a draft plan for events and fundraising. Mr McCrossan represents the teachers and liaises with the governors in agreeing the plan. We circulate it in rough to those who will help most often and communicate it to all members (as a plan). We are always open to flexibly changing the plan for better suggestions or to respond to changes in events and this has been proven true this year more than most.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Pumpkin parties that were hugely enjoyed by the children with some very inventive entries to the pumpkin carving competition.
- A super set of record beating cake sales
- A fun and brilliantly attended Advent Fair that set off the advent period in cheer - with old favourites and successful new additions to the stalls. Carols at the end and hot food were a huge success with those staying longer but not so well attended as hoped.
- Great photo montages of Global Day, with super flags, costumes and food.
- A quiz that contributed to a brilliant sense of joining in during the long months of lockdown.
- We cycled to Bethlehem (virtually) with many families helping towards the total during the months at home.
- The cumulation of the KS2 playground appeal – the playground was finished over the summer holidays.

The playground in particular deserves its own particular mention. It is now colourful, refreshed, long-lasting and quality, planted and inviting. The shed too has been completely restocked with new equipment for the children to play with at lunchtimes. The project has taken a great many months of planning and research and we are all grateful to the team: Sacha, Maria, Tom and Megumi.

It has been a very hard year in a myriad of ways that have affected us all differently. Our financial year ended before we returned to school and so this report does not cover the Autumn term - but we were vocal in our huge gratitude to the teachers for their enormous and compassionate efforts

during lockdown. We repeat those thanks here, and that is still not a fraction of the thanks they deserve.

This year we could not go forward with the planned Spring Social, our class ice cream sales, the strawberries at the music concert, the Summer Fete and – perhaps most upsettingly – our usual goodbyes to Year 6.

I would like to personally thank the committee for their tireless support, the events committee for an amazing Advent Fair at very short notice, Amy for everything she did to get us to Bethlehem and the Year Reps for keeping me on the straight and narrow and actually making everything happen. The members have supported us every time with overwhelming good will and we exist only because of them.

Next year continues to be a tricky one to judge. We want to support the community and not to burden it. But what each family wants and needs is very different at the moment. We are trying hard to strike the right balance. We have cancelled all in-person events until February half term and the new committee will take a further view on that in the new year. Unusually for us we have asked families for direct donations to fund the outdoor classrooms that the school has asked us for. We plan to go ahead with as much as we can to give a sense of normality and shape to the term as possible - bags2school, Christmas cards, pumpkin carving competition, Christmas dinner. Contributions of ideas and time will always be gladly received and warmly welcomed.

It has been a privilege to be Chair, and although personal circumstances mean I have to step down, I will (of course) continue to support the new Chair and committee as much as I can going forward.

***Jane Burke***