

St Lawrence Primary School Chairpersons report by Louise Dean, Chairperson

18/9/24

At the end of my first year as PTA Chairperson, I look back with an overall sense of satisfaction and pride for what we have achieved over the last 12 months. I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your contributions, whether it was volunteering for an event, buying a cupcake from the cake sale at sports day or even making frog faces for the school disco, everything that you do, even if you think it's nothing, it really does make such a difference to making the PTA a success. So, thank you.

As you will all be aware, my family and I have recently relocated to the UK and therefore I would like to resign from the post of Chairperson at this AGM.

Moving on...

As the Treasurer's report will detail shortly, we have raised a total amount of £3016.95 during the 2023/2024 fundraising events, which is amazing!

In terms of members, we were undoubtedly short of roles, with the resignation of the joint chairperson in January 2024. In addition, there was some committee members who could not make our meetings but would help when needed. To try to increase attendance at meetings, it would be a really good idea going forward for any volunteers/committee members who cannot make meetings to try to send a delegate on their behalf to make quorum, if not, this can delay agenda items being agreed or even still, the meeting being rescheduled.

The big parent/teacher fundraisers this year was the introduction to the Pasta Day and of course the summer fayre and raffle, which was a huge success.

I would like to thank Laura Chellingworth for her hard work in the background organising and sending out emails on behalf of the PTA to obtain the wonderful prizes- the raffle couldn't have gone ahead without your efforts!

The "Leap into March" disco was a lovely evening, the children really enjoyed themselves and with the introduction to a soft play area for the younger ones (and also for the older ones who wanted to let off a bit of steam this was a great idea led by Amory which I think is key to any forthcoming disco!

It had been noted after the last Halloween disco by some parents that possibly before the next Halloween event we should try to discourage any parent volunteers to come dressed too scarily because this had on the younger children and those that maybe find the event a little overwhelming in the first instance. This maybe something to consider ahead of the next Halloween disco.

In addition to the above, the PTA also held our very popular hot dog day! An easter egg hunt went down a treat thanks to Nicola who creatively made the eggs and arranged the trail - feedback for the next trail was to ensure that the letters were more waterproof and weatherproof (however we did have the most rainfall that month so it was against us from the start!).

For the Christmas lunch party this year we were asked by parents to try something different due to air borne allergies in the school. We decided that we would ask the children to bring in their own Christmas themed lunchbox. This went down a treat for the children, lunchtime staff and parents

who liked the idea that they knew what their child was eating but also that the children were guaranteed to like the food they were eating and were not going hungry.

With the PTA funding this year we were able to support the school by providing the following:

Christmas Presents from Santa

Year 6 Leaver Hoodies

Pansies for Nursery to grow

Fish and Chip meal for Year 5 and their French Students who visited for the day.

The focus for fundraising by the PTA was halted for the school play equipment (this was very kindly paid for by the school). Fundraising for large items within a small school setting is very time consuming. By the time funds have been raised the parents/children may have left the school and they would not benefit, this may have discouraged parents to contributing to any fundraising.

So, the main focus these past 12 months was all about "school community". Providing smaller pockets of funding on a need-by-need basis like this will help significantly and it gives the PTA, and parents the opportunity to be able to see the fruits of their labour.

Involving teachers and parents is a key way forward and we have been delighted this year to welcome Mrs Lowry onboard as our teacher rep. This has been a great step to share ideas and ensure these would work within the school and to provide the teachers with event information.

As Chairperson, I wanted to build a community whereby teachers felt they could ask the PTA for funding towards the children's educational needs and I think this would be beneficial all round if this could continue, having a teacher rep proved its invaluable.

One of the strengths of the PTA is that it has been quite informal - a small group of people getting together to support the school. However, I recognise that this informality meant that it was sometimes a little difficult with responses when asking for volunteers for events which meant it was hard work for a small number of committee members. It has been difficult to engage with senior parents within the school also, and I would therefore recommend that the new PTA should request that a class rep or member of the committee going forward should have at least two volunteers per class group for each event before it can even go ahead.

Finally, I would like to finish the Chair's report by thanking everyone for attending the meeting tonight, apologies that I am not here but I leave you in the very trusted and capable hands of Rhiannon (again) who I pass the baton back to and I wish the new PTA committee even greater success in the future.