

St Lawrence Primary School PTA Chair Report 2020

I'd like to start by thanking everyone for coming, and offer particular thanks to our elected Officers and Class Reps, who always give their time so generously, and of course Mr Charlesworth and Mrs Ward, who are as ever incredibly supportive of all things PTA!

2020 has been a strange and difficult year, and, like many organisations, the PTA has spent the last few months mentally and practically readjusting to what is likely to be the 'new normal'. Typically our events are centred around being hands on and present within the school and with the children, and our entire mindset as an organisation will be required to change in order to continue to raise much needed funds.

The 2019/2020 year started off well, with early organisation and planning of events for the entire year. These events alone raised over £1200 - we decided to utilise some tried and tested fund raisers, such as hotdog days, movie nights and school discos, as well as introducing some new ideas such as the 100 club and sale of Christmas decorations. Fund raising was soon brought to a halt, however, with lockdown and school closure. We all frantically struggled to regroup and our two high volume fund raisers, the Liberation Day BBQ and Summer Garden Party, had to be cancelled. The completion of the Trim Trail was put on hold due to practical considerations and also in case funds were required to be utilised elsewhere in the current situation. We did however still manage to help the school fund the most exciting SIMS pay system, which should make everyone's lives substantially easier - Mrs Ward will give the latest update - and the usual Christmas party, presents and Year 6 leaving books.

2020 brings a fresh new outlook, with our focus being on virtual and non contact fund raisers. I hope that parents will embrace these novel ideas and support them in just the same generous fashion as the previous events. We will still need support from our class reps and parents - whether in an ideas role, helping with specific events or just by participating. We have many seasoned PTA veterans on board this year, as well as some new faces who I am looking forward to working with.

Once more, thank you to all who help in any way, I am looking forward to a productive and exciting year, full of activities that will engage the children within their local community whilst being educational and fun.