

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!

For those of you new to the PTA, I wanted to give a very brief overview of what we are all about. We are a registered charity, and our objectives are to:

- Enhance and advance the educational environment of the pupils at St Lawrence Primary School and;
- Foster relationships between staff, parents, the school and the local community

We do this both by raising funds to purchase equipment and activities for the children and through the actual fund raising events themselves. Events include hot dog days, movie nights, sale of merchandise, school discos, treasure hunts and - back in pre covid days and hopefully soon to return - school fayres and similar community events. The PTA can only operate through volunteers and over the past three years I have been privileged to work with an incredibly diverse group of committed, hard working parents, who all freely give up their time planning, orchestrating and ensuring the smooth running of a variety of events throughout the school year and beyond. Being a volunteer doesn't have to mean a massive time commitment - it could be as little as helping pass on messages via WhatsApp - but if you have the time it is an exceptionally good way of really feeling involved with your child's time at the school and giving something back.

2021 has continued to be a difficult year in terms of fundraising, but I feel that we have made good adaptations in terms of low touch events.

We know that times are financially tough for many at the moment, so when planning our events for the year we were careful not to overwhelm parents whilst still trying to provide a variety of fun and engaging activities for the children. Yet another year had to pass without a big fund raiser, but we still managed to raise over £5000. Pip will go through the figures shortly. We were delighted finally to be able to complete the trim trail in 2021 (despite all the setbacks!), and it has been fabulous to see all the children enjoying it.

2022 will bring a largely new team, as I step down from the Chair role and we welcome a new Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary on board. I am sure that they will continue to nurture the PTA and provide a wealth of new and exciting fund raising activities.

Once more, thank you so much to all who help and support in any way. I am feeling a little sad at stepping down, but will still be around to help when possible and I wish the new team all the very best.