

Headteacher Report – St Lawrence Primary School Parent Teacher Association 2020/21

It has been a challenging year in many ways, but with the support of the PTA we have done so much more than just coping with the pandemic. We have found ways to make sure that the children at St Lawrence feel safe and secure and that they continue to love learning, develop their interests, become ever more curious and expand on their passions.

With a bit of creative thinking, the PTA and school have worked together to provide the fun and social side of school life, the importance of which cannot be overestimated.

To name a few personal highlights; hot dog days have been the hit that they usually are with the children and their parents have been grateful for 3 precious days off from making lunchboxes. The Pumpkin and Easter trails in Waterworks Valley have been enjoyed not just by our school, but also the wider community and have encouraged families to walk in this lovely part of the parish. The Cans for Corridors campaign has raised the children's awareness of environmental issues, encouraging them to consider responsibilities beyond our shores. The collection of books donated to the school library have been enjoyed by many of the children, some of whom may have found a character or a situation that they relate to in a story for the first time.

At the beginning of the year when we assessed the children following the months of home learning and the summer break, we saw how lucky we are with our parent community. You worked tirelessly with the teachers to make sure your children kept up with their learning. This good starting point in September, the additional support we have been able to put in place for each class this year, plus the after-school maths club has meant that the children's outcomes at the end of both Key Stages were even better than ever by the end of last academic year!

I am proud to say that the effectiveness of teaching at St Lawrence is going from strength to strength and our children's outcomes have been consistently going up for the past three years without interruption. It is so rewarding that the commitment St Lawrence has to doing the best for the children is having such a positive impact in so many ways.

The PTA committee has been so positive, constructive, and optimistic this year. The meetings have been enjoyable to be part of, especially the ones held in the pub. The officers and members have done all they can to help the school, even if that has meant attending meetings remotely whilst simultaneously putting the children to bed and feeding the dog. The determination of our chairperson to install the A Frame and finish the trim trail through a global pandemic and a blocked Suez Canal was something to behold.

There will be quite a bit of change on the committee this year, so an extra special thank you goes to those people who are stepping down from their roles. On behalf of all the staff and children at St Lawrence school, thank you for everything the PTA do.

As always, we are looking forward to working closely with the PTA to enrich our offer to the children and their families in this new academic year, whatever it may have in store for us!

Amory Charlesworth

Headteacher.