

Chairman's Report

2017 AGM

3rd October 2017

The academic year of 2016/17, as with previous years has been a very busy year. Five Ways PTFA has once again delivered a full and varied calendar of events, catering for both the pupils of the school as well as the parents and other adult supporters. As always, the events were hard work to organise from start to finish and although we can make a few changes in the year to come, overall feedback has been positive which is always nice to hear. I am extremely proud to report that the PTFA raised the outstanding amount of £12,500!

Fundraising activities that have taken place include

- Christmas Cards designed by the children - a good fundraiser despite orders being down on previous years.
- Bag2School-two collections and respectable funds raised with minimal input required.
- Bingo Nights-both Christmas and Easter events were a sell out with maximum numbers at each event. Refreshments were provided by the PTFA along with a selection of mostly pre sold filled baps. Special thanks to Jo Burton for doing a great job as our resident Bingo Caller!
- End of Term Parties & Discos – It was nice to see much needed parents volunteering to help at the discos this year and I hope this continues. This year the PTFA contributed £350 towards the Foundation Stage parties for the year and this money went towards the cost of the activities and entertainment laid on. Thanks to Michaela Kerr for coordinating the discos for both Christmas and end of Year for the KS1 & KS2 children. She will be greatly missed as this year has been her last as coordinator.
- Fashion Show & Clothes Sale – we managed to sell just enough tickets to meet Shop2Drop Ltd's minimum ticket sales requirement in order for it to go ahead.
- Flip and Dippy show – The show ran smoothly and all those that attended had a fantastic time.
- Easter Egg Hunt-a popular and successful event this year with over 350 children taking part. The weather was fabulous as well which always adds to the occasion.
- Summer Fayre-a resounding success as hoped raising £5,500.00! A few changes were introduced this year, some will be kept, some dropped and some adapted for the future. The main thing to take forward to next year is that preparation could

start a little earlier next year to avoid any possible 'mad panics'. Teacher and parent participation numbers were at an all time high which was fantastic to see. I hope this continues in the future.

- Five Ways Lottery – a brand new initiative which is looking like it will yield a significant amount of money. Helen Phillips has championed this caused tirelessly and I thank her especially for her hard work.
- Leavers T-shirts & Hoodies—once again this year, we offered personalised leavers t-shirts and hoodies which were well received with the Year 6 pupils taking them to wear at Laches Wood and also wearing them on their last day of school.
- Non Uniform Days –two days were held in support of our Bingo Nights and provided the chocolate prizes for the bingo as well as valuable cash donations.

The success of the events would not have been possible without the small army of volunteers that helped, and the generous supporters that pay to visit the events. Without either, the events would neither run, nor be worth running. If I could thank all involved personally I would, however I can't get around to the hundreds of people so I hope this report will act as a thank you instead. I feel a special thank you should go to my Vice Chairperson - Sarah Edgar, Treasurer – Kerrie Tranter and the lady I took over as Chair from Helen Phillips, to name just three. They have been reliable, dependable and supportive throughout my first year as chair. I would like to thank all of the PTFA helpers and hope we can continue to work together into the future.

Taking over as the PTFA Chairman this time last year could only be described as a privilege and a steep learning curve was encountered – one that at times shows no signs levelling off. It is with great pride that I look back at all the events that we have organised, all the people we have entertained, all the projects that the PTFA has funded and of course all the children we have had a positive impact on throughout the year both in and out of school time.

I have personally been involved with every event this year (sometimes just carrying chairs to help set up the fashion show!) and seen how the PTFA team has pulled together to pull off every event successfully and as hoped. Highlights of the year for me personally have been handing out the eggs at the ever-popular Easter Egg hunt as well as both chocolate bingo events and most recently our Summer Fayre where literally hundreds of visitors demanded hot dogs and burgers from the BBQ (my idea, but I think well worth keeping next time).

It is with great satisfaction that I think of how the money raised by the PTFA has been spent. As a parent at Five Ways, I always enjoy hearing our children describe with great enthusiasm how they have benefitted from the PTFA funded projects that they have used or been involved with at school. Playground markings, the KS1 hall overhead projector system, Phonics reading scheme, Young Enterprise project, additional library resources and the Caroline Bowers Art Gallery are all major projects that have come to fruition due to the generosity of our supporters.

I feel that the three way link between the PTFA, school and parents has been strengthened by working closely with Mrs Mander and the Senior Leadership Team. Plans are afoot to develop this relationship further in the coming year.

It is with obvious sadness I report that towards the end of the year, following discussions with key committee members, we have taken the decision to shelve the fashion show and flip and dippy events. We feel that the hard work involved in the lead up to the events with limited numbers of volunteers and the relatively low profits generated, makes the events unsustainable as things now stand. This does not mean however these events will not be seen again - numbers of volunteers need to increase in order to make them once again viable.

I would finally like to thank Mrs Mander for her ongoing and continued support along with the SLT, teaching staff and all other staff involved with the school.

Plans for the year ahead

In order to move the PTFA forward yet further and build on past hard work, following discussions with the SLT, there are a number of things I would like us to introduce

- Making Mrs Mander's wish list more visible to parents in the hope that whenever we ask for money, there is always the motivation and reasoning for doing so.
- Assigning each event a 'fundraising for...' title. The success of each event can be judged – did we raise enough money?
- Involving local businesses in events along the lines of the last summer fayre being in partnership with Cannock Chase Radio. This will hopefully reduce costs as well as demonstrate the professionalism of our events.

I have had positive feedback from the SLT with regards to introducing some new events

- Christmas Craft and Gift Fayre – it is perceived that relatively low numbers of volunteers will be needed to run the fayre which will be small scale at first with the intention of building on it for next year. Interest is high among local crafters to pay for tables at the event which is very promising.
- Shiny Smarties – a new initiative whereby each child will be given a tube of smarties (or bubbles) and then they fill the tubes with coins as payment by completing small chores etc at home.
- Bounce and BBQ event – along the same lines of the 'Big Bounce' days that already successfully run at parks locally and further afield.



- Sponsored run event of some sort – possibly a colour dash or pretty mudder event where parents sponsor a team made up of teachers and PTFA members.

The key to the future success of the PTFA and any new events is the recruitment of additional volunteers. With the new committee, it is hoped that a new generation of PTFA helpers has started. With new members comes new ideas and in time running events will be less time intensive. I hope that everyone will continue to pull together in order to supply the additional funding needed for our already cash strapped school.

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