

Chairperson's Report 2015/16

Annual General Meeting – 4th October 2016

What have we achieved?

2015/16 has been a busy year for Five Ways PTFA. We have delivered a full programme of events and activity which has resulted in an end of year profit of **£11,526**. This is a record amount and is down to the children, parents and families who have supported our fundraising efforts and attended our events throughout the year. It's also down to the hard work and dedication of PTFA members who have worked tirelessly to support the school. We have achieved a lot with a small but dedicated team of Committee members and PTFA helpers whose enthusiasm, hard work and support has made my job as Chairperson a lot easier and a pleasure to do. We should all be proud of this achievement, knowing that this money will be used to benefit our children and that it will help to enrich their time at Five Ways.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Summer Fayre, which as you know is our largest fundraiser. We were again lucky with the weather and families turned out to enjoy a fantastic afternoon. Some new stalls were introduced this year and a full programme of entertainment was provided by St Luke's Steel Band, our own school choir, the wind band and sporting clubs, plus Cannock Radio and Hednesford Town FC. We were extremely grateful also to Michaela Kerr for an extremely generous 1st prize donation for the Grand Raffle.

Throughout the year we have tried very hard to keep the PTFA visible, open and welcoming to all. We have communicated regularly with parents via our half-termly Newsletter, Notice Board, text messages, the Headteacher's weekly letter, PTFA pages on the school website and the PTFA Facebook page which now has **361 'likes'** (an increase of 63 since the last AGM). The PTFA is a partnership with the School and we have continued to benefit from good two-way communication with the Headteacher and the support of the school office staff who have done a fantastic job in supporting us throughout the year.

Fundraising activities that have taken place

- **Christmas Cards designed by the children** - a good fundraiser despite orders being down on previous years. Thanks to Sarah Edgar for coordinating.
- **Bag2School** - two collections and respectable funds raised with minimal input required. Thanks to Kirsty Guest and Naomi Brown for sorting bags for distribution to classes.
- **Bingo Nights** – both Christmas and Easter events were a sell out with 126 people at each event. Refreshments were provided by PTFA plus a selection of filled baps prepared by the school catering team (thanks to Julie Cooke and co). Also thanks to Jo Burton for doing a great job as our resident Bingo Caller!
- **End of Term Parties & Discos** – thanks to Michaela Kerr for coordinating the discos for both Christmas and end of Year for the KS1 & KS2 children. It was pleasing to see more parents volunteering to help at the discos this year and I hope this continues. This year PTFA contributed £400 towards the Foundation Stage parties for the year and this money went towards the cost of the Spacebus at Christmas and the hire of two entertainers for the end

of year parties. The cost of all parties was reduced to £3.00 and it is envisaged that this amount will remain for this coming year.

- **Film Night** – unfortunately the Family Film Night showing ‘Minions’ planned for November was cancelled due to lack of numbers, however the Year 5& 6 Film night went ahead with 54 children attending and good feedback was received. Going forward we have decided not to continue with film nights as the cost of the annual film licence is difficult to recoup without greater support for these events.
- **Fashion Show & Clothes Sale** - another successful fashion show with Shop2Drop Ltd, which was attended by 99 ladies and benefited from the early bird booking enabling us to raffle off £100 of clothes vouchers to spend on the night. Some excellent feedback was received.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - a popular and successful event this year with 368 children taking part.
- **Summer Fayre** - a resounding success attended by 1,367 people! Early planning, preparation and organisation coupled with good weather on the day resulted in record profits. However, the Summer Fayre is a lot of work shared amongst a very few people and more parent and staff helpers will be needed in future if we are to sustain the current levels of funds raised from this single event.
- **Leavers T-shirts & Hoodies** – this year for the first time we offered personalised leavers 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. 74 children (90%) ordered either a t-shirt or a hoodie and 35 children (40%) ordered both items. A small amount was added on to each item which helped to raise additional funds.
- **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.

Other activities

- **Gingerbread Welcome Gifts for Nursery & Reception** - good feedback received.
- **Theatre /Shows** – Disney on Ice (32 tickets) and The Bodyguard Musical (26 tickets).
- **New Uniform Try & Buy** – a change from our usual ‘try on days’ aimed at new and existing parents. Well received by the parents who dropped in and good feedback from Uniforms Plus who said it was well worth while and they would like to repeat it again next year.
- **Katie’s Garden** - along with a team of volunteers from South Staffordshire Water organised by Nell Pursehouse, PTFA helpers spent a day tidying up the Garden, painting fences and planting flowers. It is hoped that the School are able to put a plan in place to maintain the garden on an on-going basis.
- **Rounders Match** - we ended the year with a bit of fun by challenging the staff to a friendly game of rounders. The PTFA team claimed victory with 34 rounders to 29 and I hope this will be become an annual event!

How the money raised has been spent

With the funds raised and the monies reported at the last AGM, we have been able to fund the following during the year:-

- **Sports Team Kit (50% funded)**
- **Book Mark Sticker Prizes** (reward system)
- **Enrichment Days x 3**
- **First Aid Training for Year 5 pupils**
- **Autograph Books for the Year 6 leavers** (for this year and next year)
- **Christmas presents** (pre-wrapped) for all children in Reception, Nursery and Years 1 – 4.

There is still money which has not been spent from the allocated £10,000 pledged at the start of the year. This under-spend has been discussed with the Headteacher and will be rolled forward and added to the funds pledged for this new academic year, which we have confirmed is **£20,000**. We aim to ensure these funds are allocated fairly and are spent in a timely manner and in a way which enriches the learning and development of the children at Five Ways.

Running the PTFA

Five Ways PTFA continues to be a member of PTA-UK and benefits from its subscription linked public liability insurance and the many resources that PTA-UK has to offer including the PTA UK magazine, on-line resources through the PTA-UK website, access to a directory of trusted local suppliers and the Member Advice line. We also ensure that all the legal requirements of the Charity Commission are met in order to retain our Charity Status.

Over the past two years we have tried to make small investments in the PTFA to help us operate more efficiently and safely. This year we have funded two PTFA members to be trained by St John's Ambulance in emergency first aid. This vital training will enable us to provide additional first aid cover at PTFA organised events (we now have 7 PTFA members first aid qualified). We have also purchased 15 light-weight folding tables which have already proved their worth and made setting up events much easier, safer and quicker. During the year we took delivery of a 20ft shipping container donated by Pentalver which has enabled us to store the tables, gazebos and summer fayre equipment. We have also purchased 7 mascot/fancy dress costumes which will be used by PTFA and the School staff for various events.

The Future

Five Ways PTFA is a small, enthusiastic and dedicated team, everyone plays a part and is valued no matter how much they are able to put in. We have a mix of skills and qualities which complement each other and with new members joining, we can only go from strength to strength. However, we need to keep focused on raising the profile of the PTFA to attract more parents to volunteer their time and get involved. With **less than 2%** of parents being active PTFA members, winning over parental support will remain a challenge and devising new ways of engaging parents will be key. Equally key will be fresh thinking and generating new ways of raising funds with a small volunteer base. As Local Authority cuts lead to much tighter school budgets there will understandably be greater emphasis on raising additional funds via the PTFA and there will be greater demands on those funds raised.

Finally I'd like to thank everyone for their help and support during my last year as Chairperson, in particular my Vice-Chairperson, Sarah Edgar, members of the 2015-16 Committee and those parents who have regularly attended meetings and turned up to help when needed (you know who you are!).

On a personal note I'd like to say thank you for having me. I've thoroughly enjoyed the past two years as your Chairperson. I've had lots of laughs along the way and have made some special friendships during my 7 years being part of this fantastic Association. Although I say my Goodbye as Chairperson, I look forward to working with the new Chair and the new Committee to ensuring another fantastic year where even more funds are raised for our school. Thank you.

Helen Phillips
Chairperson

4th October 2016