The Echelford Primary School

**Parent, Teacher and Friend’s Association**

# *Registered Charity No. 1192901*

**Annual General Meeting**

Chair’s Report 2021/2022

The PTFA’s purpose is to raise money for the school to buy things that benefit our children and enhance the children’s school experience. The school may not be able to afford these things within their budget. This is mostly done by running fun events for the children and their families.

At the last AGM the PTFA committee roles we filled by

* Danny Blackwell (Chair)
* Maria Houghton (Secretary)
* Lauran McBride (Treasurer)

I am very grateful to all the community members and volunteers for all there help over the past year.

I would like to thank Keri Vasta for all her amazing social media posts and networking this has been so valuable to use.

In September we invited the new reception parents/carers and children to a Teddy Bears picnic on the school field. This is a free event we have run for several years, this year was particularly good as we had all the support from reception staff who took the children off to play games so the adults could chat and get to know each other.

We held the first clothing collection in September, this collection along with other collections done through the year are simple and effective fund raisers for the school.

During October around Halloween time, we host the annual spooky disco, this year we decided to include a mufti day. The idea was to enable the children coming to the disco straight from school would not have school uniform on! However, this caused some problems as those children couldn’t wear fancy dress, this is something we will need to think about next year. However, discos are really good fund raisers, and all the children enjoy them.

We were able to have a Christmas fair which was lovely as we haven’t had one for a very long time, it took lots of organizing as we had school based stalls and activities as well as outside stalls come in as well. We decided to have a Father Christmas grotto in the library where the children would have a story read to them and then a gift as they left. Everything seemed to be going well when Covid peeked again, and we had to move everything outside in the playground! It was cold, windy and dark but despite all that we managed to pull off a really fun Christmas Fair. We learned a lot and will carry that knowledge forward for next year.

Throughout the rest of the year we helped the school run the year group Cake sales, all the money raised goes straight to that year group to buy or put toward things just for them. It would be nice if the PTFA could be informed by the school what the money was used for as we can then pass that information on to the families.

We continued with our Frozen Friday ice lolly sale, this always brings big queue and we sell out fast.

Coming towards the end of the summer we hosted our school summer fair; in the past we have had a local fair ground come in with their large rides and inflatables this has always gone down well with the children. However, we had a lot of feedback from families saying they were too much money and felt, as it is a school fair, the prices of stalls should be lower. Taking this on board, we decided we wouldn’t have them this year and keep it a bit smaller with cheaper stalls so everyone could enjoy the fair. We did then get mixed reviews from parents and children saying they missed the big rides!!! So, we will re look at this next year.

We put on a free colour run for year 6 as part of their leavers’ celebrations, this was our way to say thank you to all the children and families for their support throughout their time at Echelford. The colour run is a really fun afternoon and everyone gets involved.

The school had been wanting to up grade the school sound system in the school hall for quite some time. The estimates that were coming in were for a lot of money! So, we were over the moon when we were able to pay for this as the whole school will benefit, it will be used nearly every day from assemblies to school production’s.

We are in full swing for 2022/23, we have already run some of the children’s favourite events and hope to continue to provide further fundraising events over the coming year.

The school has already asked us to fund a purpose-built sand pit and fund an author to come in and talk to the children for world book day.

We said goodbye to Karla Pearson and Harriet Code who had been so supportive, they will be missed.

However we still have Karen Oakley, Jess Bugembe and Zoe Cottle who I’m sure will continue to support all events and be a vital role in the organisation and smooth running of things.

I will pass over to Lauren who has all the account figures for you.