



Clare House PTA
AGM, Wednesday 7th October 2020

Chair's report 2019/20
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I have just completed my first, and only, year as Chair of Clare House PTA for the year 2019-2020. This also marks my fourth year as Committee Member and it has been amazing working with such a great committee.

This year has been challenging for all of us. Due to the world wide spread of the Covid-19 virus and the closure of all the schools in the United Kingdom, the PTA has had to cancel a few important events on our calendar such as adult socials, the Easter Event and the Summer Fayre.

Fortunately, prior to that, we were able to run some successful new events and continue to receive great support with some old ones. We organised Spooky Disco and Movie Night, which were both well attended and the children really enjoyed. The Christmas Fayre was extremely popular with Clare House families and the wider community. Ice cream Fridays, which we were only able to run during the Autumn term, Second Hand Uniform sales, Easyfundraising and Christmas cards continue to be popular and have helped us raise lots of money for the school. We have introduced a new event this year as part of our Adult Social Events: PTA Ping Pong Nights. This event was run twice with the launch night in November and it was a real success!

I am delighted to be able to report that we have been able to donate £ 18,000 to the school in the last financial year. This year the PTA has been able to support

- The Music Programme.
- Online Safety Seminar for Parents and Carers.
- Swimming lessons and transportation to the lessons.
- New Maths books for all year groups.
- TT Rockstar membership for the whole school.
- We also contributed £200 to Y6 leavers.

Special experiences for the children

We had a Christmas dress up day for all children, we were due to hold a second one in the Spring term however due to COVID-19 it had to be cancelled.

PTA Support for the School

The PTA always strives to support the teachers and staff in School with EYFS Stay and Play sessions and sorting out Lost Property but we were unable to do so this year, due to the unprecedented circumstances. We were able to help the new Reception classes with the election of their Class Reps and compiling the class lists.

Parents and Friends' social

The PTA hosted events for the parents and friends of Clare House such as the Quiz Night and Ping Pong Night raising between them over £2,500(after expenses).

Fun for the Kids

Each term we run an event for the children's enjoyment such as Spooky Disco, Festive dress-up day, From Page to Peg Competition, Movie Night and World Book Day. Between them we raised nearly £2000 (after expenses).

For all the Family

Events that the whole family can enjoy are important dates on our calendar.

- Fireworks with the Rotary Club
- Christmas Fayre
- Panto at Churchill theatre

- Sadly, two of our major family and community events the Easter Event and our hugely successful Summer fair were both cancelled; however, we hope to have them reinstated next year.

Sponsorship and advertising

The PTA works hard to try and build relationships with local and parent businesses. We are able to provide sponsorship and advertising opportunities and have been delighted with the response to our efforts. We would like to thank Elmes Homecare for being our main sponsor for our Christmas Fayre and all the other companies that have advertised in our Christmas brochure.

Communicating

The PTA works hard to keep parents, children and staff on board with our initiatives. We are grateful that we are able to contribute weekly to the school's newsletter, and we have a dedicated area on the school's website. Our Facebook page has a growing membership and is an informal way for parents to network online and see what is going on at school. We also keep a continually active communication network with class reps through WhatsApp class groups, which have proven to be an extremely fast and effective way to send information to parents and carers.

So, what's the sum of all our efforts...

This year has seen a few of our fundraising events cancelled due to school closures all over the country, but I'm very pleased to announce that, in spite of adversities, through various streams of revenue the PTA was able to raise £17,000. We are extremely proud of this achievement and we hope to continue to raise more in the upcoming years.

Following from that...

- We have promised over £12,000 of funding to support the music programme.
- As always, we would like to be able to respond to requests for support from Jane Holland and her team.

How will we do this...

The PTA will continue to run our popular events, restrictions permitting. For the time being the PTA will run some events virtually and will work really hard to find ways to raise vital funds on digital platforms.

We will regularly promote Easyfundraising, Amazon Smile and "Ways to Give" which we hope will continue to grow and provide additional funding for Clare House and we are always looking for new ideas.

Thank you

It's time for us now to thank many people, without whom, the PTA would not be able to pull off all the incredible events and activities we have been organising through the years.

Firstly, a very big thank you to all Clare House pupils for making it all worthwhile and for being so well behaved at our events.

A huge thank you to all the parents, we would not be here without your help. You keep showing us, time and time again, your incredible support by attending our events, donating clothes for Bags2School collections and giving donations for our main events, by volunteering your time to help at Movie Night, contributing financially and giving pocket money to your children to spend at the Christmas Fayre.

A massive thank you goes to all the staff at school, who show us incredible support by volunteering at our events. The wonderful ladies in the office whose help and support make our lives so much easier and to the teachers for allowing us to use classroom time for initiatives like the Christmas cards and their actual classrooms for some of our events. To all the teaching assistants for being the link between the teachers and the office. A big thank you to Anna Clough and the Governors who are always ready to lend a hand at our events. Last, but by no means least, thank you Jane Holland for helping us achieve a really collaborative and mutually supportive relationship between the school and the PTA.

I would like to personally thank all the members of the PTA committee, they truly are an incredibly committed group of people, without whom, I would not have been able to chair the PTA this year. I am incredibly grateful for your help and support and I'm honoured to have worked alongside you all.

I would like to thank our families for putting up with the stress, the mess and endless days of shed clearing, balloon inflating, games creating and gift wrapping.

The last four years in the PTA, of which the last one as Chair, have been outstanding. I have met some really remarkable people through this experience and I'm forever grateful to all the committee members, past and present, for welcoming me and making feel part of such an incredible family. I have met friends for life and I can highly recommend joining the committee. It will change your life for the better.

Lastly, I would like to say a few words of thanks. This year we say goodbye to five wonderful members of the PTA Isobel, Sara, Zekine, Eleni and Steve, who are all stepping down this evening. Each and every one of them has worked tirelessly to make this PTA a success and they will be

dearly missed.

Thank you and Good Luck to the PTA committee for 2020/21