



Clare House PTA
AGM, Wednesday 6th October 2021

Chair's Report 2020-2021

Prepared by Caroline Bidder and Katie Rae

Welcome and many thanks to you all for attending this evening.

We have really enjoyed our first year as Co-Chairs of the PTA. It has been a challenging year as fundraising was limited and we quickly adapted to digital meetings and Covid restrictions. Despite the pandemic and frequent lockdowns, we continued to successfully raise funds for the school and provided support to our school community.

Most importantly of all, the children clearly enjoyed our events. Who will ever forget 'Dare-a-Teacher' and the sheer noise in the playground? Who will forget walking around the streets with their families following our trails? These memories are precious.

The PTA became innovative and creative as we continued to organise events, with the activities looking very different to previous years. We successfully ran virtual events such as the Christmas and Easter Trails, the online Pantomime and our new 'Mega Marathon' event. Our Virtual Christmas Fair proved to be very successful, providing fun for the children despite the limits of being online.

We also supported community projects, such 'FareShare', who distribute free meals to the vulnerable, and helped to raise funds for Home Learning Equipment.

Our personal highlight was being able to finish the year with the 'Summer Party Day' at the school, and to see all the excitement and joy in the children's faces. This demonstrated to us that some of our best events are sometimes some of the most simple.

Bags2School, Easyfundraising and the Christmas Art Project continued to be popular. The Clare House 100 Club and Facebook membership also grew.

The combination of all the various streams of revenue means that the PTA has been able to raise an amazing total of £23,000 after expenses. We are very proud of this achievement given the year we had.

The PTA has funded specialist music lessons benefiting all the children, and school equipment such as books and laptops. As always, we look forward to responding to future funding requests from Mrs Holland.

Looking ahead we have lots of new fundraising ideas for this year and hopefully with the easing of restrictions we can do even more. We're already busy planning for the return of 'Ping Pong' evenings, an Adult Social and our ever-popular annual Christmas Fair.

If you can find time to help or be part of the PTA, in any way, large or small, over the coming school year it would be hugely appreciated.

We would like to take a few moments to extend some important thankyou's

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the children for getting involved in our events, virtually and in-person.

Thank you to all the parents for their support, engaging with our virtual events and for donating so generously.

Thank you to all the staff at the school, and our appreciation especially to Mrs Holland who has been so supportive this past year.

Thank you to the committee for their dedication and hard work. They are a truly committed and inspiring group and great fun to work with. In particular, this year there have been many discussions around COVID and what the PTA can and cannot do, and the collective wisdom of the committee has made those decisions easier to make.

When other PTAs understandably stopped over the last year, we are really proud that our PTA has continued to raise much needed funds for the school, supported the local community and fostered a sense of enjoyment for our children.

On behalf of everyone on the committee, we would like to thank Talitha Firth and Daniel Heather who are stepping down tonight for their contributions to the PTA. Talitha has been on the Committee for 2 years and contributed her many ideas and volunteered her time selflessly. A special thank you must go to Daniel who has done an amazing job as Treasurer and gone above and beyond. We're grateful for all your efforts, commitment and support to make the PTA a great success, and wish you both very well for the future.

We hope this year that the PTA will continue to gain more support and build upon what we have already achieved together as a team, in partnership with our school.

Thank you

Caroline and Katie