

Chairman's Report 2018/2019

3 October 2019

I am delighted to announce that the new committee has survived our first year!! I would like to thank my OPTA colleagues for all their hard work and commitment in taking the role forward from our very successful predecessors. It is amazing that we have managed to raise a significant amount of money for the school – over £20,000! This has been achieved through a range of events, both large and small and we are extremely grateful for all the efforts of parents, carers and staff who give up their time and energy to make these events a success.

Our 3 main events during the year were the Fireworks, the Christmas Fair and the Summer Fair and were the main fundraisers. We continued using a theme for the Fireworks choosing The Greatest Showman. The music fitted perfectly with the display and we raised £3,754. The Christmas Fair generated £3,259 however due to legalities and resource availability we were unable to pre-sell raffle tickets which meant we missed out on a potential income of almost £1000. The Lego themed Summer Fair saw us trialling pre-paid wristbands which were a great success and we raised £3,100.

A big thank you to Curchods who continue to sponsor each of these events.

There were many other events that happened throughout the year which contributed to the fundraising. The Easter Sponsored Run was attended by Nuffield Health who kindly provided inscribed medals for each runner which the children were thrilled to receive. The Bags2School collection has continued to be successful and we hope to increase this provision to 4 times a year. The very popular Smartie challenge was, as always, successful, with Sparrows and 5W winning an extra Mufti Day and it was lovely to receive such wonderful feedback from the Mothering Sunday Daffodils.

With the full support of Mrs Hastings and Mrs Jenkyn, we took the decision not to hold school discos this year as we felt they were no longer well received and have instead dedicated a contribution to the Infant School Trip to the Camberley Pantomime and we will look to contribute towards an event for the Junior School in due course in order to alleviate some of the costs to parents, especially at this time of year when there will be other expenses such as school Christmas cards, school photos and not to mention actual Christmas!!

The focus this year has been on finding our feet and re-establishing good links with class reps and teachers. However, we must not forget the aim of the charity is to enrich the lives of the pupils at the school. To that end, OPTA have spent nearly £10,000 on providing the school with new tablets and also with gifts that each class chose to give to the new upcoming class. These included new bean bags / reading chairs for every class as well as sports equipment, wet play activities and a pool table and hockey table!

With all the above comes many volunteered hours and preparation before, during and after the events. Without the help of many, none of these fundraisers could take place. There are so many people to thank: the Trustees, Abi Knight (Treasurer), Kira Bennett (Vice-Chairman), Bianca Williams and Aruna Chandrapalan (Joint Secretary) and Laura Savell (Events Coordinator). Fundraising Organisers: Kellyanne Davies, Laura Breakwell, Adrian & Marianne Buxton to name but a few. We must also thank the Class Reps who have worked hard to engage their class parents for each event, and all the other helpers and volunteers throughout the year. Finally, we must not forget the staff who have supported our ideas and helped at events.

I would like say a special thank you to Bianca Williams who has decided to step down from the committee. She joined with us when we took on OPTA duties last October and she has worked hard with us to achieve all the above results. She continues to support OPTA and the school and we look forward to working with her in the future.

I hope the forthcoming year will be as profitable if not more so and I hope we can continue to provide some fun and entertaining events for the pupils, parents and staff.

Helen Mabbott
Chairman