

Chairman's Report 2019 / 2020

21 October 2020

Wow what a year! An exceptionally strange year! Sadly, due to the current situation, very little has been able to continue in terms of fundraising throughout 2020 however we did have many successes in the latter half of 2019.

2 of our 3 main events during the year were able to go ahead; the Fireworks and the Christmas Fair. This year we assessed what has worked best in previous years. We stripped the Fireworks back to just food, tattoos, glowies and a fabulous Firework display forgoing a theme and mini-games. This event raised £3,117. Again we made some changes to our Christmas Fair, this year hosting on a Saturday. We raised £3,347, slightly more than the previous year of £3,259 and the general feedback was that a Saturday was much more relaxed and far more enjoyable than after school. Sadly the Summer Fair was cancelled.

A big thank you to Curchods Estate Agents who sponsored both of these events and we know that they wish to continue to support our school in future once they are allowed to recommence sponsorship.

There were a couple of other event we were able to run prior to lockdown. A Valentine's Day cake sale and mufti day raised £435 and the Bags2School collection raised a massive £1,052 as a result of everyone spending the summer having clear-outs!!! Mothering Sunday was tinged with sadness as it was the start of lockdown, however we received some lovely messages in response to the Mothering Sunday flowers.

Fortunately due to the lockdown, the lack of fundraising has been offset by the decrease in the need for items for the school however, OPTA have still made the following contributions. OPTA have spent nearly £23,000 on providing the school with new trim trails and climbing frames at the Infant and Junior School, as well as providing defibrillators for both the Infant and Junior Schools.

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), Aruna Chandrapalan (Secretary) and Laura Savell (Events Coordinator). We must also thank Bianca Williams for her continued support with the children's Christmas cards and 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.

As I am sure you are all aware, as much as we enjoy arranging these events and providing our school with much needed funds, we do also have our own families and work-life and consider. Therefore we must announce that after 3 year's service, this year will be our last as your OPTA committee and we hereby officially give one year's notice of resignation.

We therefore request that if anyone would like to step into our shoes and take over the helm, this is now your opportunity to come forward and join us, that way we can provide a full hand over and help and support you throughout this year.

Thankfully some events are already scheduled in for this new year, the Christmas Market will be a virtual event on Saturday 28 November and we hope you will join us on Facebook for this purpose to see the lovely Christmas gifts for sale. The Smartie Challenge and Easter Fun Run should go ahead all being well and we have some fun activities for the children and families over the festive period lined up – further details to follow.

I hope you all stay well and that our school remains open and that we can continue to provide some more fun and entertaining events for the pupils, parents and staff.

Helen Mabbott
Chairman