



Chair's Report PTA AGM 2020

Welcome everyone. I'm delighted to see you all here this evening at our very first virtual AGM.

The objective of the PTFA is to support the school and make a difference to the children by enriching their school environment. We do this largely by running social and fundraising events for the children, parents and staff and at the same time building a friendly, fun and welcoming Warnham school community.

The last twelve months have seen extraordinary change in all of our lives. There is no doubt that some members will have experienced deeply challenging circumstances over the last few months; professionally, financially and personally. We would like to reassure all members that our focus during this unprecedented time remains on ensuring our children continue to benefit from their school environment as much as possible.

The PTFA is run by a committee that is elected each year at the AGM. The AGM meeting is the only formal meeting of the year for the PTFA and is one that deals with the formalities of committee elections, financial audits, reviews and plans for the future. This year, we also intend to vote in a new Constitution as the previous Constitution has remained unchanged for a number of years and requires updating to ensure that we can remain compliant.

Before we launch into these formalities, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the serving PTFA committee:

Chair – Nicola Maidment

Secretary – Jo Prodger

Treasurer – Jess Harris

Through their hard work, dedication and commitment to the PTFA, we have made some fantastic achievements in an otherwise tumultuous year – so thank you, as you really do “make it happen”. All committee members are also Trustees of the charity, any changes to the current committee as part of this AGM will be reflected on the Trustee register with the Charity Commission.

Sadly, Nicola Maidment stepped down as Chair before the Christmas holidays. Nicola has coordinated some amazing events, managed our PTFA meetings and kept you all up to date with our latest events via our Facebook page and newsletter. During her tenure, we have raised a phenomenal amount of money for the School and have used this to fund the new Beehive, which has provided extra breakout areas for the children to study and is a wonderful addition to the new library. Thank you, Nicola, for all your hard work. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved rest!



We are also very grateful for the ongoing assistance and guidance provided by our Head Teacher, Shirley Kirby, who provides invaluable support to the team. A big thank you also goes to Natalie Collingwood and Stephanie Rugg who have implemented and supported the Warnham School Wishlist, both personally and financially, over the last couple of years and are now preparing to hand this over to the PTFA. Thank you both for your hard work and dedication to this project!

Although the role of 'Communications Secretary' is currently shared by the existing Committee Members, it would be advantageous if we could fill this role with a sole member, if anyone is interested. Sadly, we did not receive any nominations for this role prior to the AGM. However, we would still welcome any parent\carer with a keen interest in social media to step forward and speak to any of the PTFA about this role.

Now to summarise the 2019/20 academic calendar year and what we have been doing since our last AGM.

2019 Autumn Term

This is our busiest term with events, and once again was a very successful period. In October 2019 we hosted our Fireworks night for the third year running and it was, as always, a fantastic evening. We aimed for more of a party vibe this time, with Ryans Disco providing music which really pumped up the atmosphere. We also sourced outdoor lighting which was a great help but was fetched down from the North of England! When we are next able to put on this event it will be a priority to try and source outdoor event lighting locally. The fireworks raised a whopping £1,564.27.

During November 2019 we arranged the 'Design Your Own' Christmas card and gifts fundraiser. This year the children created their designs in class with Reception and Yr1 being given a set craft template to complete. This worked really well and ensured all children submitted a design. Profit from this event was £386.43.

Finally for this term, in December 2019 we held the Christmas Fair. This is our biggest earning event each year and once again attendees amazed us with their generosity. Unfortunately, we only had access to the main hall and Fox Class for this event which limited what we could provide. With better planning next time, we would hope to have access to more classrooms as the hall was uncomfortably full at points. That aside, it was a fun filled evening with some fantastic games, crafts and lucky dips. The raffle always contributes a large chunk of income and this year was no different, a big thank you to all the local businesses and residents who provided prizes for this. We would also like to thank all the volunteers that helped, this event entirely relies on parents and friends of the school offering their time up to man the stalls. Overall, the fair raised a jaw dropping £2,683.35.



2020 Spring Term

The ever-popular Disco – centred around a neon theme - was held in February 2020 and, as always, proved to be a fun-filled evening enjoyed by both the children and the parent / teacher volunteers who supported the evening. This is usually an annual event and we look forward to replicating this again as soon as is reasonably practicable. A massive thank you to Ryan Jeal of Ryan's Disco, who kindly volunteers his time and equipment to help support these events. We raised a fantastic £575.46 with this event.

In March 2020, just prior to our first national lockdown, we ran our popular Mother's Day gift stall. This was our final fundraising initiative before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, which subsequently resulted in Committee meetings being cancelled and events postponed for the foreseeable future. These Mother's Day gifts raised £184.06.

Our 'Bags2School' fundraiser was held twice throughout the year, with collections of clothing and other items bagged and sent off for recycling. Thank you to Amanda Brown who arranges this for us, this years total was £324.00

2020 Summer Term

No events were held during this period as it was felt both the school and families focus was on the pandemic. We did not want to add any feelings of pressure during this extraordinary time.

Other funds raised through the 2019/20 Academic year are:

Tesco Blue Tokens Award - £2,000.00

Shanly Foundation donation - £500.00

Other donations - £50.00

Online Shopping commissions (Amazon Smile & EasyFundraising) - £62.33

The Wishlist - £1,447.74 (notably £423.12 was raised in response to the COVID PPE appeal)

The PTFA used the opportunity over the 'summer holidays' to look at our structure and review our charity and compliance paperwork. We made full use of our membership to Parentkind, which subsequently highlighted that our constitution was originally lodged with the Charity Commission in 1974 and was no longer reflective of how we operate. This is what has driven the decision to propose a new constitution to our members, which we hope to vote in shortly.

We also used the opportunity to start preparing to launch our new events website, with the aim of making it easier for parents to buy tickets for events online.



WARNHAM C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA

Our focus for the next year is to expand our PTFA's abilities. We have already launched our website and created an account with Stripe to enable us to take online payments. Along with updating our constitution, we are looking to provide clearer structure on how our PTFA operates, promote ourselves and run a recruitment drive, increase our social media presence and establish ourselves in the wider community. We know our school's parents are always generous and that we can fundraise very successfully. We now want to also increase our community services and build the relationships between the school, parents and the wider community.

Despite the challenges we've faced, we still managed to raise a fantastic £9,791.86 in the academic year from September 2019 to August 2020, which far exceeded our expectations. So a big thank you to all of you who have supported our activities throughout the year. We have been delighted to distribute £15,799.53 of funds to Warnham CE Primary School, which were raised over this year and last. Projects funded include the School Library (£14,000.00), Wishlist purchases, leavers gifts, Hedgehog parent welcome bags, a school pantomime and prizes for the Easter colouring competition.

These were, and continue to be, unprecedented times but we are hoping to be able to start operating more normally soon and will be announcing our next fundraising goal in due course.

Finally, I would like to finish the Chair's report by offering a word of appreciation to all those behind the scenes who have been involved in the PTFA during this particularly challenging year. Your commitment and willingness to contribute has been incredible, as have your efforts to ensure that the PTFA continues to go from strength to strength. I look forward to the coming year.

Jess Harris & Jo Prodger
(Acting on behalf of Nicola Maidment)