

PSA Chair's Report prepared for AGM 31st March 2021
Referring to annual activities during school year 2019-2020

Introduction

What a strange year in which to be writing a Chair's report! For context (for future readers of this report) the country went into a national lockdown on March 23rd 2020 in response to a pandemic caused by COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the school was shut to the majority of pupils being on site until June 2020 when it opened to approximately 2/3 of the school roll. We were unable to hold any events that enabled people to meet, so had to resort to some creative means in order to raise money.

Despite this we managed to raise £15,102.98, which although significantly down on the previous years, is still very impressive.

To that end, we wish to formally thank every one that has contributed in any way at all; financially and physically. We would like to make a special mention to those in the village and wider community with no familial ties to the school, who still support us and actively look to find ways to help the PSA support the school.

Supporting the School

Pupils and staff were welcomed back in September 2019 to 41 new laptops, upgrades to staff computers and software and wifi upgrades. This was amazing to be able to do and it has made such a massive difference to the pupils and staff and has brought the school firmly into the 21st Century! This has been particularly well timed, given the need to move to home learning, and the ability to support pupils with loans of laptops where needed.

We have been able to approve the purchase of, amongst many things; new classroom resources, workshops for the children to widen their cultural understanding, an online learning platform (which was vital for this year) and training courses.

We firmly view our mission as one to fundraise to support and enhance the learning experiences of the pupils and when you look at the list of extra curricular activities that we have been able to support it is clear that our funds are needed and are being widely enjoyed.

We have been keen to ensure that some of the money is spent on 'treats' for the pupils to enhance special times of the year. Purchases at Christmas, end of term lollies, Elf visits and contributions to workshops have been enjoyed by the pupils.

Fundraising

We enjoyed hosting a successful Fireworks Night and Christmas Fair, as well as some smaller events for the pupils. We were particularly pleased that we were able to further build on community relationships and ensure that events appealed to the wider community as well as to the pupils. After seeing the community enjoy these events it was hugely disappointing and upsetting that we were unable to hold the rest of our regular events planned this year.

However, we are very grateful to all those who helped to organise virtual events – some of which made the local news papers! The Virtual Summer Fair was a particular success, financially, but it also played a large part in boosting morale among the pupils and village and paved the way for similar events later in the calendar year.

The PSA would also like to note in the Chair's report, how very grateful we are to have such dedicated, fabulous staff at our school, who have put the pupil's welfare above everything else in such a difficult year. Every request for funding and support has been with this in mind. We are very lucky to have such a great relationship with them all but particularly Mrs Rowley, who attends our meetings and embraces every 'crazy' fundraising idea! A massive Thank you to you all and we are pleased to be able to record this here.

Despite such a disruptive year, it has been a pleasure to see Plaxtol School Association come together with the community to find ways through the restrictions and continue to support the school. We thank you all for your support and look forward to a more sociable 2021!

Jenny Johnson
Chair, Plaxtol School Association
March 2021