

Chair's Report for AGM Academic Year 2017/18

Wow – what an amazing year!! Another record financially, and for that we would like to thank everyone who has been involved.

We have been asking around to see how other PTA's perform. We raise an amazing amount in comparison, even though we are a tiny school, so we are very grateful for all the support given to us by both our parents and the village that surrounds us.

The money raised is also greatly needed. In this period of financial crisis, only the teaching staff, and other fundamental essential items are funded by the government. The PSA has become responsible for funding everything else. Without your support, the children would be without very basic resources and their experience would be very greatly diminished. As such, we now play a very vital role, and we are very mindful of how important that role has become.

We had some wonderful events last year. We kicked off with the Halloween Disco, which the children all loved, followed by the fireworks and Christmas fair. We then had the Superhero Stomp, where all the children had to solve a riddle set out for them, our inaugural Easter Fair, and the Royal Wedding which was a very fitting tribute to a wonderful day, with a banquet fit for the royal family and an amazing three tiered wedding cake which tasted divine!

We also did brilliantly at the annual village Duck Race, with our usual hook a duck, plus more unusual offerings such as biscuits, bookmarks, necklaces, bracelets, keyrings and pencils, plus a wonderful array of duck themed fimo models!

The summer fair was a wonderful way to round off the year, with the most amazing slide, and our very own "Bake Off"!!

We have also significantly increased our income in the past year from grants and donations, which is wonderful, and has provided a much needed additional revenue stream.

Matched funding has proved a very valuable source, with £2000 in matched funding from Barclays, which was spent on smart boards. We successfully applied for the Tesco Bags of Help grant award, where we came second in the voting in store, and won £2000 which we spent on stationary. We were also incredibly lucky to be chosen as part of the Co-Op Community scheme, which raised £3,500 towards a shelter for the playground.

In addition, we were very kindly given £1600 by local companies Celcon and Electra Polymer plus Aviva and supermarkets Waitrose and Asda for the playground, we raised £865 via parent donations and the Rocket Fund for beebots, metal detectors and a digital listening station for Rabbit class, and Easy Fundraising where you earn money just by shopping online plus the gift aid raised on donations have also both been other great sources of income.

In total, we raised over £22,000, which was a record! As a result, we were able to approve spending of more than £20,000 on items which were much needed for school, including £8000 on four new smartboards (one for each of the classrooms), £4000 for a new whole school Maths scheme including purchase of textbooks etc, £1500 on soundproofing for Class 3 (so they can actually hear the teacher!!!), £2500 on replacement shutters between the kitchen and hall (as this was a fire risk), £1500 on Early Years resources, £1200 on the new breakout area between Class 1 & 2, £1040 on four visualisers (which are now in daily use), £600 on a reading comprehension scheme and new reading materials, £600 on the new Class 4 reading area, £335 on new LED panels and strip lights to

replace obsolete lighting panels, and £232 on our subscription to MangaHigh for the whole school for a year.

It has been an amazing year and we have been very proud to be a part of it. As outgoing chairs, we are very sad to be handing over, but there are lots of exciting developments already in the pipeline for next year!

As such, we very much look forward to the coming year and thank everyone involved for their continued support of this wonderful and very much needed organisation.

Caroline & Louise

Co-Chairs Plaxtol School Association (2016-18)

