

Headteacher's Report

PSA AGM 7.3.16

The Plaxtol School Parent School Association (PSA) plays a vital, multi-faceted role in the life of the school; this has been the case historically and continues to be so.

The PSA provides

- A strong **link** between the school, parents and the community so that we are all working together e.g. link with 'Friends of Plaxtol', local contractors
- A **communication** pathway which helps to keep everyone up to date and informed e.g. class reps, PSA Newsletter
- A forum for **sharing** view and ideas e.g. regular PSA meetings
- A **support** network for the school, the Headteacher and for parents
- A **team** of people who are willing to contribute their time, energy and skills e.g. swimming pool, after school clubs, 'projects'.
- Financial support through **fund-raising** events

All of these together demonstrate an enormous commitment on the part of the parents of our school to work together to enhance the learning of our pupils – to provide the best learning opportunities, the best learning environment and the best resources possible.

The three co-chairs, Ayesha, Maddie and Nikki have really embraced their role since taking up post in September 2015. As we moved through last year and so far to date this year, all the events organised by the PSA have surpassed the monies raised previously. This really demonstrates the commitment that these ladies have shown and the level of support they have engendered in others.

Events organised include: Halloween Festivities, Firework Display, Christmas and Summer Fairs, Superhero Stomp, Pamper Night, The Royal Rave (a joint collaboration with The Friends of Plaxtol). All events have been well attended by parents, friends and people from the community and given a real boost to the PSA's fundraising efforts.

We also continue to have lots of parents support the school by volunteering their time throughout the year. We currently have volunteers who:

- listen to readers
- support off-site curriculum trips
- support weekly LOTC sessions
- run extra-curricular clubs (netball, dance, forest crafts/wildlife)
- support our summer term swimming programme

Having additional adults really helps enrich the pupils learning; providing a smaller adult to pupil ratio for activities and extending the range of extra-curricular opportunities that the school can offer.

The funds raised by the PSA are so important to the school and really help to enrich every child's learning experience. The money has been used to:

- support the running/maintenance of the swimming pool (annual expenditure),
- allow all pupils to experience the Christmas Pantomime (2016,17)
- provide in-class resources, incl. stationery, pupil workbooks, soft furnishings for reading corners, display boards (annual spend)
- allow all pupils to have a year's access to software that enhances their reading, spelling and maths skills (annual spend)
- purchase resources to enhance the teaching of spelling, grammar and handwriting across the school (2016,17)
- purchase additional reading books for EYFS/KS1 pupils (2016,17)
- purchase furniture for Magpies/Owls (2015,16)

- upgrade iPads, purchase of charging stations, data projectors (purchase and installation 2016,17) for Class 3 and Class 4, purchase new batteries for laptops
- purchase and install an outside tap & hose to allow watering of our Wildlife Area (2015,16)
- improvements to Wildlife Area, incl. new entrance, paths, raised beds (2015,16)
- fund DBS checks for volunteers to support swimming sessions etc (2015,16)
- purchase 'Target Maths' resources for KS2 (2016,17)
- purchase classroom blinds for Classes 3 & 4 (2016,17)
- purchase Christmas books (2016,17)

A number of parents have been extremely resourceful and proactive in contacting a variety of companies. This has led to some fantastic donations of equipment/tools/resources to help develop our Wildlife Area and LOtC sessions.

'Easyfundraising' is now established and helping to add additional monies. 'Match-funding' is also being actively pursued to further the funds raised for a single event.

I am extremely grateful for the level of support that has been offered to the school and to myself personally through the PSA during the past academic year. I would like to say a huge thank you to the three co-chairs Ayesha, Maddie and Nikki for all their personal hard work and effort contributed to the school over the past 18 months. They have made a great team and will be enormously missed when they step down at the end of this academic year.

The school staff, governors, pupils and myself wish to say an enormous **THANK YOU** to the PSA and all our parents for the hard work and commitment that has been invested in the school to date and for everything that is to come in the future.

Ms Lisa Mansfield

Headteacher
Plaxtol School
