

Buckingham Park CE Primary School PTA

CHAIRS REPORT 2019/2020

9th November 2019

The PTA organised a number of fantastic events during the first half of 2019/2020 which were enjoyed by our school children, families and the wider community.

Of course we can't carry on without acknowledging the huge disruption and limitations brought upon the work of the PTA caused by the pandemic.

Despite being unable to run fundraising events during this period (and cognisant of the financial hardships people are facing we took the decision not to ask for funds from parents during the time away from school), we were able to foster a sense of community via the set up and administration of the BP Parents Together Facebook Group. Over the lockdown parents shared resources and ideas, with 199 members and hundreds of posts.

We're proud to report that despite our fundraising efforts being curtailed half way through the year our income for the year was £7848.95, less expenses of £2938.29 which gave a net income of £4910.66 (see Treasurers Report for further details).

A special thanks to all our amazing volunteers including the large numbers of parents and staff for the time and effort they put in to make these events possible.

We would like to formally recognise the support and commitment of the many parents and carers who have given time, energy and enthusiasm so generously throughout the past year. We appreciate the many hours of time planning, preparing and working at PTA events and we thank you all.

Likewise, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the fantastic school staff. There are numerous events (Film Nights, Discos, Fayres – so loved by the children) which simply could not take place without the dedication and goodwill of the staff. We know all staff work extremely hard and we're grateful for their ongoing support.

Highlights from the previous year include:

Our regular events have continued to be popular amongst the children, their families and the wider community. The Film Nights and Discos are always a highlight in the term for the children. Likewise, our Christmas Fayre is great fun and a brilliant start to the festive season, and we were delighted to see The Christmas Choir back in action.

The Christmas Cards are so loved by parents and families, and we thank the teachers for their support in allowing the children to make the artworks in class and support the administration of the project. I would also like to thank Vicky Smith for running this project, it is administratively complicated and time consuming to organize and we're very grateful that Vicky made this happen.

Last year we also offered for the first time A BP Christmas Calendar. A huge thank you to Emma Styles to for not only conceiving the idea, but also pulling it together as a product and bringing it life and finally selling it. A great achievement!

The Quiz was a bumper year, and we were especially proud to work with Desi Food (a BP Parent) who worked incredibly hard to supply a delicious dinner for all.

In terms of donations we've been delighted to support the school with funds to buy new reading books, and resources for the Buddy Area. Thank you to Carla for working closely with the School and organising the sports bibs and flag.

We're extremely excited about the upcoming 'Scrap Shack' and are also very pleased to support the School financially with projects such as revamping the pond area, and in the longer term we hope an orchard!

We are working towards a vision of 'A thriving community raising funds to enrich school life' and we believe we will achieve this vision via our mission of 'creating a supportive, inclusive, and engaged community of parents/ carers having fun and fundraising'. It is with this vision and mission in mind that we have hosted a portfolio of events which have been designed not only to raise funds but also build our community and provide fun and inclusive events for all.

Motivating and welcoming volunteers continues to be a focus for the PTA. There is no doubt this has been challenging for us as we started 2020. However, this situation won't last forever and we are confident that the goodwill of the community will allow us to get back on track when the situations allows us to do so.

We are excited to be running a Christmas Trail this year, and hope we will be able to provide some Christmas Cheer in lieu of the tradition Fayre.

Lastly, this is my final AGM as Chair and I'd like to personally thank Vicky, Emma and Carla for their hard work and commitment as a PTA Committee. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes and as a Committee they given so much time, energy and creativity to everything they have done. I am extremely grateful to them and would like to thank them heartily.

Kind regards,

Carys Dorritt