

## AGM Chairpersons Report January 2018

As I went back over all the posts on our Facebook group, minutes and my diary the first thing that struck me about the past 12 months is wow, we did a lot for such a small group of people and I think that first and foremost we should be immensely proud of what we have achieved so far and how far we have come in such a short amount of time with 0 funds to begin with.

Following on from our First AGM and elections our first achievement was to be accepted as a registered Charity, something that we had found had previously hampered some of our donation requests especially when dealing with the large national companies due to their tax implications. We also received a request from Mrs Palmer, Foundation stage Assistant Head, to fund their chicken hatching project. The project was a great success not only for the learning experience of the EYS children but that the rest of the school had the opportunity to learn, experience and in some cases hold the chicks as they developed to the point where there were returned to the ethical farm they were cultivated from. Having spoken to Mrs Palmer and discussed it during our meetings we have committed to funding this type of project for EYS each year. 2018 will see EYS having Duck eggs delivered for hatching and I'm sure we will all look forward to seeing the ducklings once they have emerged. Work was also started on the Summer Fayre.

Our first event of the year was a Disco night for Years 1 & 2 and at the same time a Film night for Year 3 & 4. At the request of the parents we ran both on the same night and at the same time to aid in collection of the children especially where siblings were in different tiers of the school. When initially set up the PTFA were to run the Disco only and the staff would run the Film night, however, due to issues around parents evening preparations and reporting it became apparent that the staff would not be able to run the film night. Unfortunately the event had already advertised so we were left with the difficult decision of either cancelling the film night (as the Year 3 & 4 had already had an event solely for them in October) or run both events as planned. As we are an organisation set up purely for the enhancement of the children's experiences at school and to add to the school support where ever we could it was decided that rather than let the children down we would run both events as originally planned even though we acknowledged that this was going to be a difficult situation to manage due to the small number of active volunteers versus the school population. Collection of children was difficult and we acknowledge that but it was not helped by the attitude of some of the collecting adults who in some cases were rather offensive to each other. The positives which do outshine the negatives from this event is that the children who are the important ones in all of this and central to our organisations aspirations enjoyed both events and that was our aim after all. Going forward Discos especially we have decided will become the focus of the older years or even a part of the departing Year 6 celebrations due to their complications of facilitating them and also having just 1 year group to supervise and easier for us to create a more targeted and enjoyable environment.

February saw us being asked by EYS to help out during the reception years Animal Ball which we were delighted to assist with and going forward we would like to encourage the school to ask us for assistance in this ways as it really does help us to integrate into the school as a useful tool and also created the community links that we would like to achieve.

In March we were asked to run refreshments during the open morning for both KS1 and KS2 and whilst this only raised a small return it helps keep us in the minds of the parents and children. March also saw us making Mother's Day Coasters and running a free Easter egg colouring competition. The Mother's Day Coasters proved a hit with many loving designs sent in to make personalised coasters for special figures within the children's families. We also had a great return for the free colouring competition and it was lovely to see the joy on the faces of the winners as they came to collect their prizes during assembly.

April began with a request for assistance from the school with the new lunchtime set up with the move to the Smyth Hall for the older years. Whilst it turned out that we were not actively needed after the first day again I would like to thank the school for asking us for assistance and would hope that this would be replicated if needed again in the future. April also saw us run a very successful cake and uniform sale after school in the hall. We had some wonderful and tasty donations of cakes and biscuits and was nice to see the amount of parents and children attending this event.

In May we were asked by Mrs Hudson to help with the transition of the new Library systems across the school. We also started work on the artwork for the year group tea towels to produce the templates for Class fundraising.

June saw us producing and selling Fathers Day gift bags and providing refreshments for the NSPCC talk organised by Mrs Hearn. We provided refreshments and had a used uniform sale during the New Parents introduction evening for the new EYS children. We received and began to sell the Year Group Tea Towels and were also busy putting together the final preparations for our first Summer Fayre. We also started work on the Christmas Fayre preparations

July saw our first ever Summer Fayre. Thankfully we were graced with beautiful weather for the day which made things a lot easier. Special thanks has to go to Mr Khan for agreeing to be splatted in the name of charity. I would also like to thank Chris Kemp for producing our advertising banners and his helper Henry and Diggory for doing an excellent work of putting them up outside school one weekend. All the children at the fayre appeared to have a good time and an excellent return was achieved. We also ran the refreshments stall for the School Sports Day event and ran a quick sale at the end of term to sell off any perishable items, used school uniform and also the remaining Year Group Tea Towels.

September saw a fresh new intake of children and new staffing adjustments and understandably the school asked us to keep any activities with the children out of school time whilst the children found their feet. During September we sent home the Christmas Card designs for the children to produce a unique cards to be made into various items. We received just over 130 designs back which was a lot less than the previous year. This was probably due to the request to take it outside of school time but the children's educational needs and welfare must come first so whilst it may not always suit our aspirations we must accept that sometimes this has to happen. When the completed orders were received in actuality a similar revenue despite a reduced number of templates received.

In October we ran a coffee afternoon just for parents and whilst it was not as popular as the previous after school coffee afternoons we did see some new faces and although the have not currently become active members any sort of parental engagement is appreciated. We also received the proofs from Class fundraising for the Christmas Cards and sent them home to the parents.

November was Christmas focused. As the focus of the Christmas Fayre was to a more home made, unique, crafts feel a number of beautiful items were donated by our talented member and of course we were collecting for our very popular Tombola. We held a number of sessions inside and outside of school to create wonderful items for sale. November also saw the resignation of Lisa Harvey from the role of Vice-Chair due to personal reasons. Lisa was a wonderfully talented person who always wanted to offer the best for the PTFA and we wish her well in the future – she is missed.

December arrived and it was finally Christmas Fayre time. The months of careful preparation and

Careful consideration of stalls came together to produce a very successful Fayre. Again the children appeared to enjoy themselves and we had some excellent selling items. Special thanks again to Mr Khan for manning the gates and making sure that the adults paid their entry fee. We were also able to do a few sales of the perishable items to add to the total received.

Overall we had a very successful year but have come to the realisation that for us to keep on achieving the quality that we would want to do it with the small amount of active and able volunteers may mean that the smaller events such as Mother's Day and Father's Day may not be achievable this year coming. We have an issue developing with regards to storage on site and whilst we have managed to this point with keeping some stock items at home this is now becoming unsustainable and we will need to find a solution in the very near future. I would like to thank every member of the PTFA for the endless support that you have shown myself and the rest of the committee this year – we really would not have been able to get this far without you all. I know some of the members are more active than others but everyone contributed in their own way and that is truly invaluable to us. I would also like to thank Mrs. Bacon for her endless support and the Senior Level Team as a whole for helping make our events possible. I would also like to thank Jane the caretaker for putting up with our requirements and helping set up for our events where she can. So in conclusion we may have not had the most ideal start to our events this but we have certainly learnt, adapted and moulded our efforts to a more focused system with wonderful results. We are all on a massive learning curve and with each event we grow with confidence and vigour to achieve great things.