

25/26 Chairs Report

Another year has gone by and it has been another busy one for the PTA. We ran our usual successful events, tried a few different things and most importantly continued to raise money to support the school and children.

We started the year once again with our annual fireworks event, it was well attended by both school families and the wider community and was lovely to see everyone coming together to enjoy the event. This year we had food in the hall which worked well and had very little food waste so finally have got the food numbers down. Our usual stalls also did well throughout the evening, and we raised a significant amount.

Overall, it was a really successful event and a great way to start the year and most importantly lots of people had a great time.

We then moved on to one of our favourite events of the year, Elfridges! Our little Christmas shop was set up and decorated ready for the kids to come in and get shopping. As always, it was lovely to have almost all the children taking part and excited about picking out their gifts and generally enjoying the experience. The week ran well and went smoothly with lots of positive feedback from both staff and children. It was clear everyone enjoyed having us as part of the schools Christmas celebrations and we love it too.

This year we brought back our Wonka bar event, which is something we run every few years. The children were all able to buy their chocolate bars and just like in the story, some lucky bars contained a golden ticket. Although somewhat chaotic the event was a big hit with the children, who loved the excitement of finding out whether they had a golden ticket. The prizes were particularly well received, and it was lovely to see how much the children enjoyed the whole experience.

It was a lot of work to put together but it was definitely worth it to see how much they enjoyed it. We have taken away plenty of lessons for next time we run it and will now leave Wonka bars to rest for a few years before bringing them back again!

As always, we had two discos this year, our spring and summer discos. Both were successful and enjoyed by the children, although our summer disco had the additional challenges of the heatwave and school closures. Thankfully we were able to rearrange and go ahead safely.

The feedback from the children for the spring disco was overwhelming positive, with a group of Yr 6s describing it as the best disco yet! Our DJs worked really well with a good amount of music vs screen time and even had some teachers winning some prizes for their dancing, proving that the adults were getting into the spirit of things too!

The summer disco was particularly special as it was the last one for many of our regular Yr 6 helpers. They have been fantastic supporters of the PTA over the years and have always been willing to step in and help whenever needed. It will definitely be strange not having

them around next year, but we are incredibly grateful for all the help they have given us and wish them the best as they move on to their next adventures.

Overall, both discos were a success and enjoyed by all that attended.

Ice cream Fridays are normally a regular part of our final term of school, unfortunately this year we were only able to run one, this was partly to do with school refurbishment making it difficult to access the freezer safely but we also struggled to find anyone to take on the responsibility of organising and running them regularly. The one we were able to hold went well and it would have been lovely to run more and hopefully this is something we will be able to manage next year.

We also continued to hold our preloved uniform sales regularly throughout the year, running them after school, at parents evening, induction days etc. These have consistently been successful and raised a good amount of money for the PTA, especially as all the uniform is donated to us the money raised from this is all 100% profit making them really worthwhile to both raise funds but also provide access to uniform at a lower cost.

Alongside our main events, we have continued with a number of smaller fundraising activities throughout the year. This includes our name label scheme with stickins and our partnership with Easyfundrasing. We have also continued to accept donations, provide refreshments at school performances and induction days.

While these events individually bring in smaller amounts, they all add up over the year and provide valuable income for the PTA without requiring a large amount of volunteers and time to run.

Of course, the reason we do all this fundraising is so that we can put money back into the school and the children. This year we have continued to support the school in a number of different ways.

One of our biggest areas of spending has been the den building area refurbishment. Through a mixture of grants and fundraised money we have continued to support this project which will transform the current area into an accessible sensory garden which will help advance the schools opal play mission.

We have also funded the replacement of the sails covering the EYFS playground areas which were damaged and worn so needed replacing.

As well as these larger projects we have continued to do the smaller things that make a difference through the school year. These include easter eggs and stickers for the egg rolling competition, sports day ice pops, leavers books for the yr 6s and funding and supporting the Yr 6 BBQ.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA throughout the year.

Thank you to our trustees and PTA members for everything you do behind the scenes, to all the parents, carers and friends of the school who have volunteered their time, and to the school staff who continue to work with us and support our events.

Thank you!

A look ahead to next year...

Looking ahead to next year, we will be continuing with the events that have become regular favourites for the school like fireworks, Elfridges, preloved uniform sales and discos.

At the moment, our fireworks night is the only event already booked in, with the rest of the year still to be planned. I think one of our biggest priorities will be finding the right balance between the events we would like to run and the volunteer support we have available.

This year has shown us that we can put on some really successful events, but also that we need to make sure we have enough people willing to take on the responsibility of organising and supporting them before we commit to something. We will also continue to look at smaller fundraising opportunities that can bring money in without putting too much pressure on our volunteers.

Ultimately, I'd like the PTA to continue being a group that brings the school community together, raises money for things that benefit our children, and hopefully has a bit of fun along the way.

Thank you for your continued support.

Georgina

Chair

St Francis PTFA