



SHADWELL PRIMARY PTA

## Chairpersons' Report 2020 AGM

Our 2019/20 Chairpersons' Report will be very different this year. Usually we can look back on a fantastic 12 months of fundraising events and activities, but this year has of course been very different following the Coronavirus Pandemic lockdown in March and the subsequent limited return to normal school activities. After several years of growth in the PTA calendar, we are now at a crossroads for the PTA as we look ahead at the 2020/21 calendar with trepidation. Our usual big fundraising events are looking increasingly unlikely and so this is a vital time to re-think our strategy to fundraising, revise our event focus and revive our enthusiasm levels for the new challenge!

### **Successes**

We began the year in fine spirits, raising over £3000 in our first term with a very successful bonfire night extravaganza, expertly run by Shadwell Cricket Club, with great support from our parent community of helpers as always. Christmas fever hit in December with a fabulous festive wreath evening and our annual Christmas shop for the children to treat their loved ones. The Christmas Fair was exciting as ever with a visit from the big man himself and the afternoon raised over £1400 in total, in no large part was down to the largely donated items provided and the fabulous raffle.

As you all know, our priority in 2019/20 was to revive the outdoor provision area of the school. We were desperate to raise funds to replace the trim trail that had sadly been declared unfit for purpose. The committee began applying for grant funding in earnest in early 2020 and we were looking forward to a fun filled year ahead of fundraising events when the pandemic hit. However, in May we received the fantastic news that we had succeeded in securing a large grant from the Lady Elizabeth Hastings Trust. Thanks go to Jenny our grants officer for her very persuasive grant application! This enabled us to smash our target for KS1 play equipment and the scheme was completed before the children returned to school briefly at the end of the year.

A very special thanks also goes to our Gardening Project parents who have worked diligently to transform the outdoor teaching areas this year. Our garden warriors have volunteered their time, sourced materials and creatively transformed the pond area and woodland adjacent to nursery. Their blood sweat and tears have made a massive impact and are a great example of how using your enthusiasm, hard work and skills can really help the school.

As our Treasurers' report details, despite the school closure we were able to have raised approximately £4000 profit over the course of the academic year from the limited calendar of events. Your funds have enabled us to provide support across a wide range of educational provision this year, including; Bee-bots robotic equipment for KS1, budget for SITE projects across the school, the annual Zulu software for the children's iPads, Year 6 leavers books, plus additional laptops for SEN provision and of course the balance of the new playground equipment and additional gardening supplies to support Mrs Kennet's sterling work in outdoor provision for the children.

### **Fundraising for the forthcoming academic year**

Considering the current climate, providing access to exciting outdoor space remains a priority for school and we would suggest that should remain on course to update the KS2 playground equipment. At a potential cost of around £30K (subject to agreed design), this is no small feat! But with a clear target we have faith that we as a community can rise to the challenge!

There are local and national financial grants available for large projects but there is a concern across the PTA sector that these funds may be stretched this year as all schools face a similar funding crisis. Therefore, innovation and initiative are now required from our community to deliver a revised programme of fundraising that steps away from our usual events.

For those of you who may be new to the PTA or are reading this wondering how you can help, we now more than ever, need your support to reach out across your networks to gain traction for upcoming fundraising efforts. Parents, you are all part of the PTA community. Friends who have ideas, problem solvers with new approaches to old problems, contacts who have networks that may be interested in lending a hand. We are open to all shapes and sizes of support and we would love to open the doors this year to all suggestions, with the mantra 'no idea is a bad idea!'.

The re-development of the outdoor space will require more than just funding and we would also love to expand the willing volunteer network that can support this with their time, physical effort or through any connections to gardening businesses in our networks that may wish to contribute resources. If you feel you can help in this way please contact Claire Horn, who is doing a grand job overseeing the project and deserves a big round of applause for her dedication and enthusiasm!

### **Changing times**

As outlined at last year's AGM, Anna and I are stepping down this year as Co-Chairperson. Sadly, our commitments have changed, but not our desire for the PTA to be the fun, friendly and fundraising force for good that we hope it has become. As this will be our last report, we would like to thank everyone for making us so welcome in the role and for sharing so many amazing experiences with us. Our kids have become fantastic helpers and really enjoyed helping out the PTA and learning all about volunteering. We hope that the new Committee will enjoy taking the PTA to the next level and cannot wait to watch their unfolding successes.

Finally, we would like to give special thanks to our PTA Committee and Class-Reps, without whom our community would not function! Keeping our parents up to date with PTA and school notices, rostering volunteers, organizing events, getting dressed up, selling buns, making buns, eating buns... they are always willing to help and that help is greatly appreciated every year.

Times may be changing, and life may be uncertain, but one thing never changes, the importance of the role the PTA plays in creating the memories our kids will remember for their lifetime. Here's to many many more.

With Thanks

Amy and Anna  
Co-Chairs Shadwell Primary School PTA