



5th November 2019

PTA President's Report 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been another successful year for the PTA with much-needed funds being raised for the benefit of the school and my sincere thanks go to all those who have served on the committee and the faithful volunteers who have run the many events throughout the year.

The Christmas and Summer Fairs raised in excess of £10,000, the ever-popular discos continue to raise over £3,000 each year with the Christmas Card project raising over £1,200.

As I am sure you are aware, Strengthening Community is one of the core aims of the PTA and, when you see families and members of the local community coming together to enjoy the many organised events throughout the year, it is clear for all to see that the work of the PTA certainly fulfils this objective. The return of Happy's Circus this year again highlighted the importance of hosting events that can be enjoyed by the Valley school community and beyond.

Following the decision that was taken in 2017 to focus the PTA's fundraising to support one project, I am delighted to say that the chosen project to develop the library area by constructing a mezzanine floor has now been completed. This project has provided the school with an additional multi-purpose space which is being used daily by pupils and staff.

The staff are extremely grateful for the support shown by the PTA over the course of last year. Funds have been used to purchase many things including book bags for the new Reception cohort, Black History Month workshops and the Year 6 leavers' books and T-shirts.

In my recent budget meeting to parents, I stressed how important the fundraising efforts of the PTA will be in the coming years. It is evident that all monies raised will have to be used to provide essentials in classrooms across the school. Those who attended the presentation last month entered in to constructive discussion about many aspects of school funds and ideas were shared about future fundraising projects. It is hoped to keep this discussion going over the course of this school year to explore new PTA projects whilst maintaining some of the traditional events.

At the recent disco, it was refreshing to see a growing number of parents (both mums and dads) getting involved and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to play their part in volunteering with at least one PTA event a year.

By now, you will be aware of the school's Environmental Plan and the success that has been achieved by the hard work of a small group of parents who have organised events and applied for grants to fund this work. I am conscious that some parents feel the PTA should be used to fundraise to support this plan while there are others who strongly disagree with this notion. While it will be for all stakeholders to agree a way forward at Thursday's AGM, I think the last few months have shown that there can be two distinct fundraising channels running in parallel. The PTA can remain true to its core aims of strengthening community and general fundraising to support the school and advance the education of the pupils whilst other funds can be secured through grant applications and alike to support specific school initiatives.

As we embark on a new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to Mrs. Scott who stands down as Chairperson after three years in the role. Her hard work and unwavering commitment to the PTA and wider life of the school is very much appreciated.

The sentiment that was shared by parents at the recent budget meeting and in subsequent conversations I have had is one of firm resolve to ensure we do all that we can to secure necessary funds to maintain the high quality provision at Valley. I am confident that by working together we will experience another successful year of fun-filled PTA events to benefit the whole school community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Paul', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Jackson
Head Teacher