

Chair Report September 2016

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to join me this evening for our 2016 AGM.

Secondly I would like to thank you all again for your continued support and enthusiasm for the PTA through the last year despite busy lives and family commitments – it just goes to show that you can be an active member of the PTA regardless of how many events you can attend or how many meetings, together, working as a team as we do, we have achieved a fantastic amount this year.

May I also take this brief moment to express my own personal thanks to my main support within the committee and that's namely Phil and Sue, who without, quite frankly, we wouldn't survive and achieve what we have.

Taking of achievements though our fundraising and events, we have been able to provide the following for the children and staff at Cliff Park Schools:

- school lunchtime toys
- book bags for the new intake in reception
- author visits
- lollies for sports day participants
- new playhouse for the Star Room
- donation of monies to each class room for added extras
- song bird t'shirts for the choir
- arts and craft items for classrooms
- breakfast club items
- role play area
- and lets not forget our new sparkly shed taking pride and place in the Infant Playground.

In addition to monetary items we have provided for the school, most of us have given up our spare time to accompany class trips and help with activities which I know, the schools greatly appreciate.

If we can cast our mind back to the AGM last year, we were saddened to learn that we were unable to run the Mothers and Fathers Day Gift Shops as well as being unable to hold a disco each term.

We did wonder how this would affect the total of monies raised over the academic year and as you'll see from the financial report, we have seen a dip in what we have raised, and this is mainly from the loss of the Disco in the Summer Term.

Although we were saddened by the loss of the Mothers Day and Fathers Day gift shops, from a logistical point of view and a very black and white view, these were not missed – from a heartfelt view and from the point of view of a Parent, they were...who knows, perhaps some time in the future they can 're open'?

That said however, the success of the Summer Raffle has dulled the blow but I do feel that we need to concentrate on the Christmas Raffle to make this a 'wow' event and I would really like to see a Fayre back on the Calendar for the Summer term of 2017. This will only be possible however with guaranteed support from PTA members, Staff and volunteers – something we are all aware of and a hurdle we face every year, but who knows, perhaps 2017 could be 'the year?!'

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Phil Reid for his support with the Raffle Events – very much appreciated.

Speaking of Events, after looking at the Financial Report it is obvious to me that the Discos are incredibly important with a phenomenal profit being raised from the sale of sweets and refreshments – even with the reduction of sweets being sold and the withdrawal of fizzy drinks – the healthier option of popcorn has proven to be a massive hit as did the free fruit to some degree. I would like to quickly take the opportunity here to not only thank all the Parents and Students that attended the Disco to make them such a success but to the members of the PTA (namely Sophy and Simon for their Disco Running Abilities – second to none) to giving up their time to serve, monitor and clear up after the Discos as this is a long tiring evening and of course not forgetting the Staff Members who give up their free time to support the children too (to name but a few...Simon Smith, Mike Walsh, Louise Staff, Emma Dawson, Sue Mitchell and last by not least Phil Reid).

The other major player in our fundraising was the sale of lollies and icecreams. Again, a huge thank you to Sue for coordinating the purchase of these on an almost daily basis but to those who gave up their time on a weekly basis to sell.

Whilst on the 'thank you's' a Big Whoop Whoop to Martin Steele for his continued support, breaking in skills and general assistance throughout the year – again, invaluable support..Finally, I would also like to give a quick mention to Simon, Liz, Jo, Mary, Debs, Natalie and all the other members of the School Offices for their assistance and help too.

As I have said many times in the past, I am incredibly proud, not only to be part of Cliff Park Schools PTA but to be your Chair too and would like to thank each and every one of you for all that you've done. I genuinely appreciate it and I know the Children and Staff do too.

I therefore look towards this next year and can only see bigger and better things for us as a Committee – there are elements we do need to work on – such as raising support from Infant School Parents, raising support from Staff across both schools, possibility of introducing new events and fundraisers as well as fine tuning those that we already do and I hope that with your continued support and commitment, that, as a team, we are able to achieve these with ease.

Thank you