Chairperson Report September 2020

Thank you to each and every one of you who has committed time to the Parent Council over the past year. With everyone in new roles within the PC, I would like to give a special thanks to Lynn (secretary) and Lynda (Treasurer) for all of your support during what has certainly been an interesting and very challenging year. I’d like to extend this thanks to all of the remaining and new PC members, parent helpers and to all of the school staff who make holding events and supporting the school possible. We hope to continue these positive relationships as we go forward into what will be a very different year for all of us and the way we work will have to be adapted.

Parents are vital to the success of the Parent Council and we already have a few new parents who would like to join us for the next year. We look forward to meeting you (albeit virtually) and working with you going forward.

We worked with the school last year to support them in consultations for school uniform supplier and promoting positive behaviors and relationships policy. We would like to continue to support the school in consultations and improvements and build on this foundation.

The P1 Parent Coffee Morning was a huge success and was a nice way to meet the new P1 parents. Due to restrictions we were unable to provide this opportunity this year.

We held 2 family nights in the year, A Bingo and Quiz Night, both of which were popular and attracted different people. The children and their families all said they loved the events. Once restrictions are no longer in place we will look to do this again as soon as we can and will look at ways we may be able to do this online as we are unable to hold events in the school for the foreseeable future.

We supported the school with the Halloween Costume Drive, Lots of costumes were handed in and we were able to provide a number of children with a preloved costume free of charge.

In October, we asked the kids to dress down for a donation towards to Christmas Fayre, we asked parents to donate sweets, hot chocolate and raffle/tombola prizes. We were overwhelmed by the response. The PC were able to set up an after school club which over 30 children attended (and some parents) to make sweetie cones, snowman soup and reindeer dust to sell at the Fayre. The kids loved being involved and we sold all of the pre made items to raise funds for the school. Again, this is something we’d like to do again but sadly due to restrictions this will need to be adapted this year- we are currently looking at the possibility of an online Christmas Fayre. The Fayre proved a huge success for the 2nd year in a row. This year our children loved taking part in singing and performing on stage, it was noted however that due to the hall set up, the performance would take place in Heather’s garden next time as this will alleviate the crowds in the hall and the rush for everyone to get in at the start.

Our Halloween and ‘Just for Fun’ Disco’s were well attended and the kids all had a ball, unfortunately due to lockdown the ‘Shorts and Shades’ disco in the school was cancelled, but we pulled off a virtual disco on zoom for the kids to join in their own homes. There were a few technical issues but the feedback from the families was all positive and we will look to do this again with a virtual Halloween disco. Our virtual movie night was also well received by families.

As the year ended early and sharply due to the current pandemic we were not able to spend all of the wonderful money that was raised- over £3500. We have spent a little of the money by helping the school purchase new books, P1 and P7 school ties and bought gifts for the P7 leavers as we were not able to give them their free last primary school disco. The gift was an extra this year due to the unprecedented circumstances. Purchasing the P1 school gym kit has been put on hold this year until indoor PE resumes. Discussions on how we fundraise going forward and how we will spend the money raised so far will be discussed at our next PC meeting.

On a personal note, it has been a great pleasure to work with you all in my first year as chairperson and look forward to the next year and finding out where it will take us. Parents and staff alike are all vital to the success of the Parent Council and although we have some obstacles in our way this year I’m sure we can achieve great success both in raising funds and continually supporting the school in these challenging times.