

Elson Infants Fundraising Friends

Chair Report 2018-2019

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who has been on the committee this year for their hard work and dedication. Without the team we have, we wouldn't have achieved what we have this year. Also I'd like to thank the head teachers for their ongoing support, a record number of teachers who have helped out at our events this year, and all of our parents helped who have run a stall or helped at the discos. Of course we couldn't raise any money without parents coming along to our events, and allowing their children to take part in activities.

In the last year we have organised our two most successful fayres to date – and broken into the £2000+ profit barrier for a fayre. We had an amazing winter wonderland and grotto at our Christmas fayre, and our carnival themed summer fayre was a roaring success. They were both lots of fun to organise and we were so lucky again with the weather. It was amazing to see so many people for our summer fayre, it really felt like the community coming together. As well as our usual events - Mother's and Father's Day shops which received great feedback, three discos and the year 2 leavers party (with amazing goody bags all organised by Mary!) – we also held our second Easter Egg Trail, with an Alice in Wonderland theme. It took lots of preparation by us and local groups and companies, but thanks to that and some dry weather, it was a great success! We had lots of great feedback, and everyone is looking forward to next year's. We also had our first two Happy School Bags clothes collections which were nice easy fundraisers for us, but which helped to boost products. Signing up to Easyfundraising has also been worthwhile as well are up to £164, without actually doing anything! We have signed up to Stampastic this year also. We have been using our Facebook more this year to make better use of social media in our event advertising. Our goal last year was to top the year beforehand fundraising totals, with more donations from local companies, and more advertising of our events, especially online, which I think we have managed!

In the last year we have purchased the resources for the Kinetic Letters scheme which has been introduced in the school. We also bought year-specific resources, such as the sandpit lid and sand for year R, talking boards for year 1 and educational games for years 2. We replaced two classroom rugs which were unit for purpose. But most importantly we finally managed to get the ball rolling and support the school in their redevelopment of the school library. We donated £2000 which helped pay for the seating and beach hut which have been designed and made and Ed Dade with the help of Jamie, another dad from the school, the board, new bookcases, shelving etc. It has become a personal project together with Charlotte Watkin as well spent days in the Easter and summer holidays in school helping with painting and sorting books, along with Louise and our families. I really hope that the library has a great opening next week and all the children and staff love it.

This academic year we have already had our Macmillan coffee morning and have our first clothes collection next week. We have all our usual events already in the school diary – so get them in your diary as soon as you see them.

Finally, sadly, there are many of us leaving the PTA this year, so on behalf of the rest of the PTA, firstly I would like to thank Chrissie Walton who has been on the committee since it started and has made an excellent vice chair for the past two years. She always has lots of amazing ideas and is a voice of reason. Secondly we are saying goodbye to Gemma North over who has served 4 years on the committee, 3 as treasurer! I know that she was thrown in at the deep end but has done an amazing job and got all our finances into order. I haven't had to worry about the money side of things at all. I would also like to thank Michelle Pickering, Christine Gant, Debra Spooner (secretary for the last year) and Lisa Webb, who have all just got on and pitched in whenever they could help. We all started at the same time and it was great to have such a lovely bunch of people to join the PTA with. I would also like to thank Mary Within who joined us two years ago after helping out at events before that. She has been our Freebie Queen! And finally also leaving us is Emma Bunce who joined last year but made a big impact, especially getting prizes at the summer Fayre!

And lastly I would like to personally thank everyone on the PTA and at the school for their amazing support. The last three years have been wonderful and I privileged to have been chairs for two years. I have loved the challenge and made some great friends, both on the PTA and the school staff. But it is time for change, and I know that the committee for this year will do an amazing job – I feel like I am leaving it in good hands.

P.S. See you all at the Christmas Fayre!

Kelly Broster

Chair 2017-2019

