



The Paragon School

PTA Chair's Annual Report 2019/2020

When Ceri, Simon, Jaime, George and I took the reins from David Winterflood and his team this time last year, we certainly did not predict what would lie ahead (otherwise we would have bought shares in Zoom)... We have, however, thoroughly enjoyed our year running the PTA and plan to do so for this coming year as well.

Charity

The children chose the charity which the school would support from the shortlist presented to them for the year 2019/20. The Forever Friends appeal at the Royal United Hospital was chosen and have been an incredible charity to work with. Representatives along with the very popular Big Ted came to a few assemblies and were very engaging with the children.

The House Captains and deputies, Mrs Clague and I went to visit the orthodontics department at the RUH to see some of the ways the money we had raised would be put to excellent use.

Ordinarily, we would have started the process to look for a new charity to support for the academic year 2020/21 just after the Easter holidays. The PTA Committee jointly decided to keep giving our support to the existing charity for another year. A main factor in our decision-making process was that we were unable to carry out as much fundraising last year as we were hoping to.

Another factor is the importance of the charity during the pandemic. As well as monies given for specific projects in the year, in April, we were able to donate £1,100 to the Forever Friends Help for Heroes fund, which was 50% of the profit made up to that point in the year. The £2,667 raised from Miss Perrin and Mrs Braithwaite's 24-hour danceathon was also added to this, which was an excellent amount to give to such a fantastic cause.

Second Hand Uniform

The second hand uniform shop forms an enormous part of the profit made by the PTA. Polly Gabriel has been running it single handed. It takes a good amount of work and time, thank you very much to Polly for all her hard work. Thank you also to the donations that parents send in, the shop is obviously dependent on good quality donations. We have been forced to alter the way the shop will run this year, but have come up with an alternative plan which has been outlined in the school bulletin.

Last year, the uniform shop made £3,414. Thank you very much once again to Polly.

Disco

Held back in October, we took the controversial decision to remove the tuck shops from the discos, a decision largely welcomed by parents and disliked by children! Both discos turned out to be brilliant events, lots of fun and, with a small bag of sweets given to each child, the tuck shop was well forgotten! Temporary tattoos and finger lights added to the joy. A very big thank you to the fabulous Jason from super pirates for providing the fun and to former chef Steve for cooking up the hot dogs.

A great success and a profit of just over £300 was made.

24-hour danceathon

At the start of the year, Mrs Braithwaite asked to see me and wondered what I thought of her and Miss Perrin trying to complete a 24-hour danceathon at school for the school's charity. The idea struck me as being just the right balance of crazy and brilliant, and sure enough, they danced their socks off. Held on the same day as the discos, they had lots of support from the children throughout the day and parents at the discos. Kris Kefi and I decided to go and surprise them at 5am to check they were still dancing. I can confirm that they were!

They raised an amazing £2,667. Well done and thank you Miss Perrin and Mrs Braithwaite!

Thursday and Christmas café

Liz Spurr and her fabulous team do a wonderful job selling doughnuts, cookies and other goodies after school in the playground during the warmer months. The Christmas café held in the warmth of the music lodge was more spectacularly festive than ever and a very big thank you to Liz and the team for all their hard work making this happen.

Despite missing all of the summer cafes dates, the Cafe made a fantastic £235 last year.

Christmas party

As a PTA Committee, we always welcome ideas and suggestions, so when Helen Cane-Hardy suggested that we hold one Christmas drinks do rather than by year group, we jumped at the idea! At such a busy and expensive time of year, just having to organise one babysitter and fit one more night out was ideal. We held it at Walcot House, which was a wonderful venue, perfect for those who like to party long after most of us are safely tucked up in bed! Whenever we are next allowed to, we would love to host this same event again.

Christmas market

I'm sure that every year, this event gets slightly more delightful and magical. Thank you to the wonderful team of happy elf parents who come in to help the children pick out presents and frantically wrap them. Thank you to everyone for donating all the lovely gifts and to Suzy Slemen for taking all the good quality leftover items to the charity Connecting Families, run by Bath Council.

A very special thank you, however, to the chief elves who made the event run like clockwork. Beks Hourston, Holly Cook, Kris Kefi and Lucy Hemley. A huge amount of work goes into the smooth running and festive joy of the Christmas market and we are very grateful to Beks, Holly, Kris and Lucy for this.

£1,071 was raised, all of which went to the charity.

Sponsored walk

In March, we held a sponsored walk at school in order to raise funds for the refurbishment of the library. This was the school project we had agreed to fund at a PTA meeting. Mrs Clague organised for it to be held as part of reading week. Thank you to all of the teachers who helped make this possible and to everyone who sponsored.

We raised a whopping £2,830!

Quiz Night

We were very lucky to hold this event just a few weeks before lockdown! Held at Lansdown Golf Club where former school chef Steve does the catering, we all enjoyed a delicious curry. The marvel that is Mr Hinde was quiz master and he, and PTA secretary Ceri, ran the quiz with the addition of a brilliant round by Jack Horner. A very big thank you to Magnus, Ceri and Jack, it was a lot of fun. Well done to Clueless in Lansdown on their victory, although the PTA team were obviously not trying our best, as we didn't want to go through the embarrassment of winning! Anyone whose child has been taught by Mr Hinde, will not be surprised to hear of his additional round on the history of local canals!

This event made a profit of £750.

Then something called Coronavirus happened...

We very sadly, couldn't hold our biggest fundraising event of the year, the May Fayre. We were also unable to hold the Easter egg hunt or the ever popular Pimms bar on sports day. We won't, however, dwell on this we will instead, focus on how we can hold events differently this year. As mentioned, we always welcome suggestions, both sensible and whacky! Look out for exciting PTA news in the weekly school bulletin.

Mr Harvey and Mr Barratt

On their leaving, we commissioned a painting of the school by local artist (and dad to Ned who was in year 6 at the Paragon last year) Pete 'the street' Brown. The Harvey family were absolutely thrilled as was Mr Barratt with his print of the painting and vouchers. Thank you to everyone who contributed to their gift. We are a generous bunch!

Thank you also to Pete, the painting really is beautiful. 70 prints have been available for sale, with Pete very kindly offering to donate £50 from each sale to the school's charity and to-date this has raised £1,650 which is fantastic!

Yet more thank you's

The amount of times I have said thank you in this report just goes to show what a whole school team effort it all is. I would also like to thank all the teachers for their support, but in particular, Mr Goodman, Mrs Clague, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Braithwaite, Mrs Allen and the outgoing Mr Harvey and Mr Barratt for all their extra support for PTA projects, meetings and events. It wouldn't be possible without that support.

Last but not least, the PTA Committee who are simply brilliant. Ceri, Simon, George and Jaime, thank you for making it fun!

Lucy Stone

PTA Chair