



Romsey Abbey C of E Primary
School PTFA

Church Lane
Romsey SO51 8EP

Registered Charity Number:
1037903

Chairs Report for 2022/23 Academic Year

AGM – 8th February 2024

(Postponed from 20th November and 13th December 2023)

This Chair's Report will cover the period of October 2022 to October 2023 as provisioned for by the original AGM date. Events that took place after October will feature in next year's report.

Romsey Abbey C of E Primary School (hereafter, RAPS), Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (hereafter, PTFA) is led by a committee of volunteers who positions are voted in at the Annual General Meeting each academic year. The committee is led by four main officers, the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Committee members are made up of parents, carers, teachers, non-teaching staff and friends of the school.

The main objective of the PTFA has always been to further enhance the education and school experience of pupils whilst extending relationships between parents, staff, teachers, and the general community surrounding the school. The PTFA organises inclusive events and activities for all pupils at RAPS in order to raise funds to further benefit the children throughout the academic year, and in some circumstances, leave a legacy in place for future pupils.

The 2022/23 academic year has been extremely busy and the PTFA have organised several new events and reinvigorated others. The sense of community and support from within the school (teachers, staff, and parents/carers) has been strong and steadily improving over the course of the year.

We have continued to hold our popular Pre-Loved Uniform Sales throughout the year and we are proud to be able to offer our parents a budget friendly way to adhere to the school uniform policies. We made the decision to move our sales onto the playground (previously held outside the front of RAPS), this was to reduce the amount of time and labour required to set up the sale but it has also resulted in the sales becoming more popular; Parents/Carers have

more space to look at the available stock and we are able to display more products in a clear and concise manner. We understand that our sales are invaluable to many families due to the economy and whilst we have raised our prices slightly, we have been mindful to ensure that they are affordable to everyone. We often find that families who can, donate a little more when purchasing their bargain uniform. The purchase of a SumUp card reader has proved to be extremely beneficial at sales, I will discuss this further later in the report. We have been exceptionally lucky to have been donated a vast amount of high quality second hand uniform this year which has enabled us to meet demand. Outside of the sales, I am often asked for uniform, in person or via the PTFA email, and I strive to meet the request within 2 days so that no child goes without. I would like to thank the school community for supporting our sales and donating their old uniform.

As well as our regular Pre-Loved Uniform Sales, we have welcomed back Cake Sales; Each year group has their own sale day and we kindly request that that year donate both shop brought and homemade cakes for us to sell. We are extremely grateful for the support and generosity of each year group for this and especially look forward to seeing the homemade cakes that the children have made to support us; It is the little gestures like this that really warm our hearts. As well as raising vital funds for the PTFA, the Cake Sales create a sense of community and we enjoy seeing everyone together at the end of the school day.

One of the most notable events of the academic year was the return of the Christmas Fete which, after a break during the pandemic, had a successful facelift. The aim of the Christmas Fete was to celebrate the children of RAPS so it was promoted to families and friends of the school, rather than the general public. In previous years, the popularity of the Christmas event meant that the hall became very congested and people did not stay for the whole event so the decision was made to change the event to a craft and games afternoon (marketed as Family Fun) with stalls around the edge of the hall to avoid congestion. We also introduced a new feature to this festive get-together, Santa; Mr Sharp's shed was transformed into a magical grotto using donated and borrowed decorations (collected from the local area after social media posts etc.). Our Vice-Chair's Father (wearing a suit borrowed from North Baddesley Infant School) took the role of Santa and handed out festive storybooks & sweet treats. In a time of financial difficulty, this low-cost experience meant that no child needed to miss out on meeting Santa. The feedback regarding our grotto was extremely positive and heartwarming. The Fete featured a number of low cost, handmade games, crafts and refreshments. Parents kindly donated cakes and treats for the café to serve & we offered hot & cold drinks. We were also lucky enough to have Photography Inc offer free family photoshoots (families could donate if they wished) and this proved to be very popular and many of the photos were used for Christmas cards that year. As always, the success of the fete relied heavily on having enough volunteers for the stalls and we were lucky enough to get lots of offers of help so thank you to everyone who got involved.

Both the Christmas and Summer Fetes featured our ever-popular Bottle Tombola; This is consistently one of our best fundraisers (after the main raffle) and we are extremely lucky to have such a supportive school community who give so generously. We were able to stock the Tombola's with bottle donations from families at school in return for non-uniform days. The Tombola's are always busy and there is great excitement in the queue as people cheer each other on.

We welcomed back Debbie D to RAPS during the school year so that she could entertain the children with her fantastic discos. The children always enjoy themselves and, in a bid, to ensure that the events are as inclusive as possible, we have tried to get more volunteers to monitor the children, borrow RAPS's ear defenders, invite parents

of SEN child in to assist with their own child and have a break-out room for any children who are overwhelmed. Thanks to these provisions, we have welcomed children to the disco who may not have previously attended. I have had wonderful feedback from parents with children with additional needs and welcome any further suggestions on how we can ensure everyone is included. We have updated the disco in terms of the snack provided to ensure that we are offering true value for money; We now offer crisps and biscuits during the event and then give each child a sweet treat as they leave. We are extremely conscious about the rising number of allergies and dietary requirements within the school and offer dairy-free and vegan options in separate bags to avoid cross-contamination; All snacks are nut-free but for any children with a nut-allergy, we also offer a separate goodie bag. We are conscious not to make the children with allergies stand out, whilst making sure that they are safe. Parents are asked about allergies at the time of booking tickets and this list is cross-referenced with reception to ensure we have not missed any vital information. We would like to thank everyone who gives up their Friday evenings to help with the discos, especially the staff of RAPS, including Mr Harris who we know the children love to see on the dancefloor.

In 2023, we welcomed King Charles to the throne and celebrated together as a school with a picnic. The PTFA offered families the chance to design and purchase mugs and tea towels from the providers of our Christmas Cards, Xmas4Schools, and this proved to be very popular. We enjoyed seeing the children's designs and were blown away by their wonderful, creative artwork. We also held a Coronation Cake Sale which really was spectacular, the cakes donated by our school community were wonderfully decorated with union jacks and crowns; The sale was extremely popular and, once again, highlighted the school spirit.

To mark the occasion, the PTFA gave every child a special medal featuring the date of the Coronation; We were delighted to see a high percentage of the children wearing their medals when they came out of school that day and many came up to me personally to say thank you which was rather special. We enjoy surprising the children of RAPS and are pleased that we were able to provide each child with a memento of such a monumental occasion.

A new venture for RAPS PTFA was the Childrens' Marathon at Broadlands which we were invited to take part in by Tristan Pattison, a local father with experience of school fundraising and one of the organisers of the Relay Marathon at Broadlands; Working together with other local schools, we asked families to run or walk a mile a day for 26 days. JustGiving pages were created so that the children could collect their sponsorship as the event went on, this proved to be exceptionally successful. All participating children were invited to Broadlands on the day of the Relay Marathon so that they could complete their final mile and receive their medals, I attended the event and was overwhelmed by the spirit of our runners and wish to thank all the children & parents involved for their support & enthusiasm. The PTFA also funded the entrance fee for a staff team to take part in the Relay Race and raise vital funds for the school, another true sign of our school spirit. The children who took part were celebrated at the Summer Fete as a thank you. Going forward in 2024, there are several changes that we would like to make to monitor who is taking part, ensure that the children receive further recognition and try to entice more children to take part. I would also like to increase the social media presence of the event so that we can reach a wider audience and potentially gain extra sponsorship.

We held a record-breaking Easter Raffle with prizes mainly donated by local businesses (WH Smiths, The Yoga Woods, Shine Bright Cleaning, Photography Inc & myself). The costs to the PTFA were minimal (£50) so the sale of the raffle tickets was virtually all profit. We always enjoy handing out the prizes to the lucky winners and seeing their excited faces as we walk into the classroom with handfuls of Easter Eggs. Kin Yau, our Treasurer, kindly donated Easter eggs for every child in the school so everyone got to celebrate.

As always, our biggest achievement of the year was our Summer Fete and as always, we were overwhelmed by the level of support we received in term of raffle prize donation, stall holders and, despite a difficult time recruiting them, volunteers for the event. We always face difficulty in recruiting volunteers for the fete but the school spirit wins at the last minute and we were able to cover all stalls. We are exceptionally grateful to John Fothergill for building yet more games for the day. Local businesses were extremely generous in offering prizes for the raffle, plants for our plant stall and also offering discounts when we were purchasing essentials for the day. As a small thank you, their businesses have been promoted on our social media channels and will continue to be over the course of the year. The Year 6's showcased their entrepreneurial skills with their own stalls and we were extremely proud of their efforts and ingenuity. Once again visitors to the event stayed on site for the whole duration and continued to spend money, we had a few different stalls and were delighted to be able to offer stalls to some enterprising ex-students and a college student just starting his art career. We were conscious to keep the cost of stalls and games low so that they were affordable for the whole school community. We had new banners made up and these were situated on the main road into Romsey and outside RAPS, these were invaluable in helping us attract visitors from outside of the school community. There were a number of teething problems on the day but these were swiftly dealt with and did not distract from the event. I would like to express our extreme gratitude to our band of volunteers, both in the lead up and on the day, without you, the event would not have been the success that it was.

We also opened a low-cost refreshment stand at Sports Day, offering a wider range of hot and cold drinks than ever before; This proved to be exceptionally popular and we had a steady stream of customers all day. We offered 'frothy coffees', cans of drink and snacks so there really was something for everyone; The feedback was exceptional and we are planning something similar for the next Sports Day.

A SumUp card reader was purchased for events and this has proved to be invaluable; Many parents do not carry cash so in the past they have missed out on uniform and cake sales for example, but now they can pay using their bank cards or phones. The number of people using this service has been increasing event on event. The card reader also means that there is less cash to bank at the end of an event and the money goes straight into the PTFA bank account. The school community has been grateful that we have moved with the times and that they no longer miss out or have to visit the bank before an event.

We have continued to promote ourselves on social media and I believe this has given us more of a personal feel, the school community predominately reaches out via Facebook to ask questions about events, donations etc. as it is accessible at their most convenient times. We will continue to use social media, ParentMail and face to face communication going forward and wish to promote the friendliness of the PTFA to everyone.

Thanks to our fundraising efforts over the past year, we have been able to make a substantial donation to the wonderful and serene, Psalm 23 Garden; This is a special and tranquil space for all children of RAPS. This project will continue to grow and leave a lasting legacy for years to come. You may have heard the chimes in the garden being played after school, this piece of equipment was purchased using our donation and we light up every time we hear a musical rendition on it. The Garden is a focus for our fundraising going forward and we are delighted & honoured to be part of it.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and welcoming new members into the PTFA; We are also open to new fundraising ideas so please feel free to message me or catch me at drop off or pick up times.

As I bring my report to an end, I must thank everyone who has supported the PTFA over the past year, whether in terms of volunteering, donating or crafting; We couldn't do what we do without you. I must also thank the staff at RAPS who support us every step of the way and to Mr Harris & Michelle Close, who show such enthusiasm for our events and do all they can to ensure that they run smoothly. We must also thank Mrs Hutchings and Mrs Clack who very kindly send out all of our PTFA emails and take in our donations.