



Romsey Abbey C of E Primary  
School PTFA

Church Lane  
Romsey SO51 8EP

Registered Charity Number:  
1037903

## **Chair's Report for 2021/22 Academic Year**

**AGM – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

This year, the Chair's Report will be far from traditional in that it will not be written by the Chair; The 2021/22 academic year brought a number of challenges that resulted in myself, Chloe Phillips-Luke, adopting the responsibilities of Chair in order to maintain the smooth running of the PTFA.

---

Romsey Abbey C of E Primary School (hereafter, RAPS) Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (hereafter, PTFA) is led by a committee of volunteers who 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 the Secretary; Committee members are made up of parents, carers, teachers, non-teaching staff and friends of the school.

The main objective of the PTFA is to further enhance the education and school experience of pupils at RAPS whilst extending relationships between the parents, staff, teachers and 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 each academic year and in some circumstances, leave a legacy in place for future pupils.

We have had a wonderful year, full of well attended events and a sense of support from within the school and community. There is still work to be

The 2021/22 academic year was still hindered by the Coronavirus, with RAPS continuing to implement restrictions until January 2022; This did not deflect from our fundraising efforts and whilst we were unable to hold a Christmas Fete in December 2021 (due to the unpredictability of the great British weather and the requirement to hold the fete outside), we ran a highly successful Christmas Raffle and Bottle Tombola. The Bottle Tombola was stocked entirely by donations from families at the school in return for the children wearing non-uniform. The tombola was exceptionally popular and there was great excitement throughout the queue, it gave us a sense that things would soon be returning to normal and we would be able to welcome back our community. The Christmas Raffle offered our families the chance to win a Nintendo Switch Lite (kindly donated by Shuttercraft Winchester), gift vouchers from local companies and a number of prizes donated by business owners from within the school community. The spirit

behind donations for both the raffle and tombola reassured us that the PTFA still held an important role at RAPS after the pandemic and that the school community was supportive of our full return in order to benefit the children.

The PTFA were delighted to mark the end of restrictions by holding the first school disco in two years; We were once again overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm for the event, from both the children and families. The disco was a great success and the children were pleased to see the return of our resident DJ, Debbie D. A significant highlight of the event was seeing the excited faces of the Key Stage 1 children as they experienced their first ever school disco. Going forward, I would like the PTFA to organise a disco before Christmas, if possible, but there are a number of changes that I would like to implement to improve the experience for the children (snacks, gifts etc).

Easter saw the return of our Easter Egg raffle; this is always a popular event for the children of RAPS and this year was no exception; The children were also excited to see members of the PTFA back in school to give out their prizes. I would also like to express our gratitude to Kin Yau, our Treasurer, and his wife Pip, who kindly donated easter eggs for each child in the school.

This year also saw the welcome return of our pre-loved uniform sales for which I would personally like to thank Jenny Bullen, Samantha Hoyles and Jo Chamberlain, for their enthusiasm and organising skills. At a time when everyone is feeling the pinch, our sales are invaluable to many families and the team have ensured that everyone is made to feel welcome. A PayPal account has been set up to accept payments as many parents/carers do not carry cash on the school run but the vast majority have their phones on them. As we enter more financially difficult times, these sales will be a lifeline for struggling parents. A discussion has been had with RAPS about the possibility of having a permanent rail in the office so parents can purchase uniform at anytime and do not have to await the next sale.

Our biggest achievement for this year was the return of the Summer Fete; We were overjoyed at the support we received from the school community in terms of volunteers, prize donation for the raffle and stall holders. The enthusiasm of our PTFA members was unbeatable and I felt fully supported whilst organising the event alongside Mr Barker. The event took place with short notice due to diary restrictions but we did not let this impact on the day and even managed to introduce some new games to the day (for which we are extremely grateful to John Fothergill for crafting) and an arena which was occupied throughout the whole event. Despite a number of rain showers on the day, visitors stayed on site and spent money on each of the stalls for the duration and we welcomed a number of visitors from outside of the school community. The children of RAPS got fully involved with the fete and Years 5 and 6 ran their own Enterprise Stalls for which they were responsible for on the day, we were extremely proud of their efforts and ingenuity in creating entertaining stalls. We are also grateful to local companies who sponsored stalls, enabling us to raise more from the event. I believe I can speak for the whole committee when I say that it joyous to see the grounds buzzing again and welcome back the strong community spirit that we have missed throughout the pandemic. I would like to express my gratitude to our band of volunteers on the day, without you, the event would not have been able to take place.

Further fundraising events that took place included:

- Christmas Pantomime – This year the children were treated to 2 online pantomimes.
- Cake Sales – We are grateful for the support of each year group in organising and running their own cake stalls. Thank you to all of the fantastic bakers who have donated delicious cakes.

- Xmas4Schools Christmas Cards – This is a popular service for all years and will be returning this year.
- Football Tournament – A fantastic start for our Year R's who took home the trophy this year.

Thanks to our fundraising efforts over the last year, we have been able to make a substantial donation to the Reflection Garden at RAPS, a beautiful project that will benefit children of the school for many years, contribute to the leaver's hoodies and yearbooks (wonderfully organised by Nicola Butcher and Victoria Tutton) and the fish and chip supper for the leavers.

The RAPS Bulletin Board page on Facebook has proved to be invaluable in communicating events this year and has also enabled us to put a face to the PTFA to any parents/carers who are new to the school. I will continue to utilise social media over the next year, this includes the bulletin board and the individual year group pages.

I apologise if I have missed any events off this report, I have focused on the events that I was heavily involved in organising since I am unable to comment for the previous Chair.

Despite a difficult year, I am extremely proud and grateful for the efforts and enthusiasm of the committee and I hope to work alongside them going forward. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the PTFA over the year, whether this was in terms of volunteering, donations or crafting.

The 2022/23 academic year will be financially difficult for the vast majority of our school community and this will be heavily considered in the pricing of all of our events. We will continue to ensure that no child misses out on opportunities at RAPS based on monetary restraints.

I am looking forward to welcoming new volunteers into the committee and hope that they will also bring some new fundraising ideas with them; We will make all new members feel welcome and all ideas will be considered, the PTFA is here for everyone. This is a new year for the PTFA and I for one, am very excited about the future.