

Romsey Abbey C of E Primary School
Parent Teacher Association
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 16 October 2018

CHAIR'S REPORT 2017/2018

MARIANNE PADDOCK

The Romsey Abbey Primary School Parent Teacher Association is a charity, which is run by a committee elected each year at the AGM. The current committee has been led by three main officers consisting of a Chair (Marianne Paddock), Treasurer (Kin Yau) and Secretary (Rebecca Hellings). As a PTA, the committee members are made up of parents, carers, teachers and non-teaching staff currently employed by the school.

The main aims of the PTA are to advance the education of pupils by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for the education at the school, as well as extending relationships between the staff, parents, pupils and general community within the school. The PTA also help with the organising of events, as well as engage other parents in the activities held throughout the academic year, which supports the school and advances the education of the pupils attending it.

This year has been a tremendous year with regards to the school's events, mostly due to the superb weather we have had and luckily, not having to cancel any, for which I was truly grateful. There is always a huge amount of work and effort that goes into organising any event and it is so disappointing to not only the organisers but also to the children when we have to cancel. As of previous years, the PTA have continued to hold our usual events and activities, such as our popular cake and uniform sales, of course, our main fundraising event 'the summer fete', as well as the school discos and Easter events and so on, but this year we did add a few extra events to our diary.

Going back to last year, just before Christmas, one of our members (Nick Bowden), suggested the PTA provided refreshments following the Christingle Service in the Abbey, to which proved popular amongst the local parisheners.

We also decided to go ahead with a Christmas Fayre, which was very much enjoyed by all and for most would like to continue this again this year, as it was a good fundraising event and welcome get together before Christmas.

Easter was pretty special too, being we did not only organise the traditional Easter Egg Raffle and Egg Hunt, but also went a little traditional by holding an Easter Garden Competition, to which the school invited several dignitaries including Reverend Jonathon and Manuela, to judge the competition entries. This proved to be a great day for all involved and it was nice to bring the school and church together for this special time of year.

For this year's sports day, thanks to this year's sports organiser, Jo Hobbs, the PTA provided refreshments throughout the day, which were gratefully received by all who attended, saving a journey to the local coffee shop. The PTA also asked Nicola Butcher (Mrs B's Hula Skoola) and Amy Dutfield (SO51 Fitness and well being) to come along and provide extra activities for the children to participate in, during the day's sporting activities, to which the children enjoyed very much.

The Summer Fete fell on a beautiful day again this year and it was a truly wonderful event with some great entertainment to include the School Orchestra, Romsey Voices, Romsey Ukulele Group, The Fitzell Roberts School of Dance and not forgetting the Romsey Old Cadets. Unfortunately, this year we struggled to get sponsorship but needless to say we still managed to make a reasonable profit.

The following weekend after the fete, the PTA held a stall at the Mayor's Picnic in the Park, to raise further funding, again, this went well and had a super afternoon out.

We also managed to go ahead with the end of year family BBQ, despite having a little rain previous to the event itself. It turned out to be another successful event where some of our new year R parents could come along and meet some of our existing parents and children.

Generally speaking, it has been a very busy and certainly eventful year and I have enjoyed every moment of it. It has been hard work throughout, but due to the amazing cooperation of the parents, teachers and children within our school, we have managed to pull together to see these activities and occasions happen. Having said this, at times we have struggled with finding helpers and volunteers and on occasion been let down by the lack of support. However, I have found that having continued with the parent year representatives, they have played a vital role with regards to the communication between all of the school's staff, teachers and parents within the school, keeping all informed of all activities, events and general need to know information within our school community.

This year has been a real learning curve for me as Chair of the PTA and have loved every minute of it. Therefore, I have made the decision to continue to represent our school's PTA as Chair, hopefully with having the tremendous and continued support of the parents, teachers, staff and not forgetting the children.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for the love, care, help and support shown throughout this last year and wish the PTA and our school community all the very best for the year ahead.