

Romsey Abbey C of E Primary School
Parent, Teacher and Friends Association
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 20TH October 2020

CHAIR'S REPORT 2019/2020
MARIANNE PADDOCK

The Romsey Abbey School Parent, Teacher and Friends Association is a charity, which is run by a committee elected each year at the AGM. The current committee has been led by four main officers/trustees of the PTFA, which consists of a Chair, (this year we opted for a Vice Chair), Secretary and Treasurer. As a PTFA, the committee members are made up of parents, carers, teachers, non-teaching staff and friends of the school.

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

I have held the position of Chair for the last three years and with exception from the beginning of March of this year, due to the Corona virus, unfortunately like all other schools, we have not been able to fundraise as much as we would of liked, having had to cancel many events and activities such as sports day, film nights, discos, the family barbeque and not forgetting our biggest fundraiser of the year being the summer school fete. Without dwelling on something that we could not control and looking at the positive side of things, throughout the previous three years we have held some fantastic events and activities, to which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all and hopefully very soon we can start looking forward to further events in the near future.

Saying this, at the beginning of this year from September 2019 up until the lockdown, we still managed to hold a couple of film nights, an Autumn disco, wear a Christmas hat day, have the PTFA Christmas Fair, had a Christmas Elf Competition and also continued to have our usual year cake and uniform sales. We also managed to raise some funds through the Children's Design a Christmas Card and Mug Scheme and also by parents logging on to our PTFA Easyfundraising Shopping Scheme.

This year, thanks to two of our PTFA members, we also received three donations of goods from two Romsey companies for the school and for a fundraising venture. A big thank you goes to Chloe Phillips-Luke and her husband's company, Shuttercraft, who not only provided the giant Christmas Elf to which we raffled off in the name the elf competition, but also donated a fabulous games table consisting of four or five different table games to the after school and breakfast clubs, to which both items were very happily and gratefully received. Another big thank you goes to John Barker for sourcing some new kitchen and sink units from Jewson Timber to be placed in the old school library for the after school and breakfast clubs to use, to which will allow freeing up the main kitchen and allow for after school facilities and events to take place. Unfortunately, due to a small plumbing problem we are still waiting for the units and sink to be put into place.

This year, so far the PTFA were able to help subsidize a Reception Year trip to the theatre to see a pantomime and also contribute to some of the 2020 leavers items and activities that were held for them at the school. We were also able to help and support an art project scheme organised by Mrs Elizabeth Hammond that was held for year 5 children in the Abbey and then continued to support Mrs Rhiannon Willmott, (Romsey Abbey Children and Family support worker) by providing games and volunteers to assist in the running of the All Saints Day Light Party event that was held in the Romsey Abbey.

With regards to funds from the PTFA, unfortunately this year, just before the school went into lockdown, we were informed by Martin Sharp, our school site manager, that the PTFA shed was about to collapse due to the bottom support and frame work being rotten. It was decided that as the adjoining sheds were very old and rickety, it would be best to replace not just the PTFA shed but all of the row of sheds. The school have set aside some funding which will cover three quarters of the cost to replace the sheds and have asked the PTFA if they would fund the remaining amount of £3000. Between the school and the PTFA we have received three quotes in order to find a most suitable

and affordable solution to our needs. We are hoping for this work to commence from the Christmas holidays or convenient time when the children are not at any risk. This decision had to be made as soon as possible as there was an urgency to consider as to the danger of the shed collapsing and children being at a high risk of injury or worse. Therefore, on behalf of the PTFA, a decision has been made to fund the school the amount required to replace the sheds.

Overall this year, as already mentioned, with exception from the Corona virus and its miserable impact it has had upon us all, the beginning of the year was very busy and eventful and with regards to the hard work and fundraising activities that we were able to hold, it has left us reasonably well financially. Therefore, I give a huge thanks to all of the teachers, staff, parents, friends and not forgetting the children, for their amazing time, cooperation, help and support, to which allowed us to hold all of our events and activities and enabled us to raise the funds we did. However, we do struggle at times for helpers and volunteers with some of our events and even though this year we have expanded our supporters to include friends, please can I ask if you are ever able to support us in any way, no matter how little time or help, we will always be extremely grateful.

On a final note, this year I will be stepping down as Chair for two main reasons, the first being I have held the position of Chair for the last three years and believe it is only fair to give someone else a chance and the second reason, as many of you know I have cancer and even though it has been stabilised due to having continuous treatment, I have had occasions where I haven't been either well or found treatment to be exhaustive, one of the reasons we decided to have an additional officer in the position of vice chair this year. I have loved every minute of being Chair, even at times when it has been stressful and have been so proud of holding this position, hopefully with some success. I would personally like to thank all of the teachers, staff, parents, carers, Liz Wagner (Chair of Governors), Tom Langford and not forgetting Julie Ann Palfrey for all their tremendous and continuous support throughout my time as Chair, to which I owe a great gratitude. A special thanks also goes to those who have stood by me as Officers: Kin Yau, Rebecca Hellings, Rachel Langley, John Barker, Chloe Phillips-Luke for setting up the web pages and all of the Year Reps.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the love, care, help and support shown to me as their Chair and wish the PTA and our school community all the very best for the future ahead.