

## **The Downs CEP PTA Chair Report 25/09/2020**

### **Academic Year 2019/2020**

The PTA was reformed in Term 1 in preparation for arranging fundraising events for the whole academic year. Our main focus being on Christmas events and celebrating the School's Birthday in a Grand Themed Summer Fete.

We had a brilliant Christmas Fayre with a few outside stallholders, but a main focus on PTA led tables such as make your own Reindeer Food and the Chocolate Tombola. The Chocolate Tombola was prepared by the PTA after a non uniform day where the pupils brought in chocolate rather than money to donate. This worked exceedingly well.

Choc a block and other games proved popular as did the cake stall.

Santa's Grotto was placed in the Old Maths Library Room with children pre buying tickets and arriving in time slots. The queue was rather long and lessons learnt for the next time to start later. Father Christmas did however prove exceedingly popular and brought many a smile to the children's faces.

It was a long day however exceedingly successful and one of the most successful Christmas events for a few years.

As well as the core PTA members we had a lot of parent helpers from various year groups, grandparents and governors, a special thank you to all of you that helped on the day and the lead up to it. We really could not have done it without you and very much appreciate your support in getting the PTA back up and running with your useful advice and experience.

One of the highlights this year was the making of The Downs very own Lighthouse money box. Designed by the PTA and made by a parent of the school, we are hoping that this will be a long standing addition to all school events.

A sweet/cake and preloved uniform sale was also held which again proved popular. Many thanks to all those that helped with this, especially those who had the job of washing the uniform that had been in the PTA shed for some time.

The PTA had many a meeting, some informal that involved a lot of ideas, cake and tea and also an eventful rummage and inventory of the PTA shed. A few shrieks of spiders may have been heard by the entire school!

Due to COVID 19 all fundraising was immediately placed on hold due to government guidelines, restrictions and of course lockdown. As a PTA the safety and well being of the school community is our main priority.

We have however had the chance to have a small meeting this academic year to discuss how we can adapt and move forward to bring fundraising and community togetherness back with the school.

We are looking forward to organising a Christmas raffle, organise additional extra's to the children's events that will occur within the school day and also something a little bit special for Christmas with the help of the school staffing team.

The PTA are always welcome to donations of ideas and support whichever form it takes from the whole school community and we hope to build on this openness throughout the academic year, with the main message being you do not have to be a committee member to be part of the PTA, you are all members of the PTA as you are part of the school community.