

Chair's Report 2020/2021

What a tough, unpredictable, and sometimes scary 18 months it's been since we last had our AGM. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the key workers who have worked so hard throughout the pandemic and the rest of us who've had lockdowns, home-schooling, furlough and working from home to contend with. It seems strange to look back to last February when life was "normal". We were starting to organise Easter Bingo for the end of Spring term and then lockdown stopped everything.

We did have FWSA Zoom meetings and held some smaller fundraising activities during the last school year, but we were limited on what we could do, as group events weren't allowed for such a long time, and many parents weren't in a position to contribute to our fundraisers either.

Despite Easter Bingo being cancelled in 2020 we were able to do several events over the months including Worm Charming via Zoom, an online Christmas Fair, and with the children being back at school we could organise a Christmas Grotto in the gazebo which was lovely and hugely popular. We also had Cauliflower Cards, Bags to School and a raffle in the autumn term. Our main project was and still is, to replace the bike sheds and the scooter and cycle racks.

Our treasurer, Sasha and Mr Bond have been looking at different configurations and costings for new shelters and racks themselves. We have been able to raise most of the monies needed but compared to the last few years fundraising has been much slower and we haven't funded the small projects like we normally would.

We would have had "meet Mr P" for the new Reception parents to meet each other and the FWSA which would hopefully lead to new members coming to the pub. Obviously, this hasn't happened for the last 2 academic years, so we need to find ways of contacting these parents and encourage them to become part of the team.

We have used the Blakemore Foundation's "In Kind" application form to get vouchers for goods from the Spar to supply items for last year's and the next raffle we have been planning while we are still limited on having group events.

We have been quiet on our Facebook page but now term has started we will be posting updates and invitations to our events again.

As well as the bike shed project, we also contributed to the Leavers' hoodies last year. As our fundraising increases, we can look to support more requests from staff and others to provide things like class rugs, the hall backdrop, the sound system, computer upgrades etc.

This year Kath, Rachel and I have decided to step down from our roles; Kath and Rachel due to work commitments and me because it's my daughter's last year here and a new Chair needs to take over while I am still here to support them. Personally, I'd like to say thank you to you both for everything you have done over the last few years to make the FWSA as strong and successful as it is. We will still continue to be part of the FWSA but want to let other parents take over the running of it. It has been so rewarding to see the fantastic contribution the FWSA has made to the whole school, - everywhere you look there is something the FWSA has provided and I am so proud to have been a part of it, and I wish you good luck for the future.