

The Friends of John Ray Infants and Junior Schools

2019/20 AGM

Chairpersons Report

Firstly, I would like to thank everybody for attending our first virtual meeting tonight and its lovely to see some new faces!

Well what can I say!!, What year we have had.

Anyway, let's start, Welcome to the Friends of John Ray Infant and Junior PTA AGM 2020. For those who do not know me I am Lynn Blanche and I currently hold the Chair position.

For those who are new to the schools. This PTA is Split between both the Infant and Junior Schools. Even though we are the same PTA, we hold separate accounts for each School. Each event we organise is either an event for a particular school, or it is a joint event and funds raised are credited to the corresponding accounts. When we have raised lots of money, we then ask the schools what they would like to spend it on.

This year the Infant school has received monies towards. Foundation water bottles, New books for all years and sensory equipment. The Junior school asked for money for each class to revamp their reading corners and for the school library. We also paid for some lunchtime equipment and the years 6 Leavers hoodies and ice creams for the leaving celebrations. We have also supplied the crackers for the Christmas Dinners in both schools.

This year we did start off well and organised our Christmas Fayre, Gift shops and Discos. We also got an online ordering system in place for our Easter events but then the world went wonky and the pandemic took over and all the events we had planned unfortunately had to be cancelled.

The current outlook seems very gloomy for not only our schools and PTA but for everyone who are dealing with the knock-on effects of covid 19. So many are dealing with the stress and worries regarding their jobs, income, and mental health. We have hit the pause button and we are all waiting for the world to right itself, so we can hit the play button and some sort of normality to start. This coming year is going to be an exceedingly difficult and challenging one indeed.

So.... this brings me to my goodbyes; I have served on the committee for the last 5 years but with great sadness this was my last year on the committee and I am stepping down. My son started secondary school in September, so I must leave you. I have had great time and have made some good friends and fantastic memories for not only my son and myself, but I hope for many other families over the years. It has been my pleasure and privilege to be a part of the PTA and I will miss you terribly. I am going to have a lot of free time on my hands!!

Now, to the future. I have had a meeting with Both Karen Harrison and Kate Mills, where they have expressed their concerns over the PTA continuing not only in the current pandemic but also with the lack of support and committee members over the last few years. At this point I would like to invite the Heads to express their concerns. (Karen Harrison, or Alex Darvill on behalf of Kate Mills)