

Preston School Association: Chair's Report February 2021-October 2022 **(Annual General Meeting, 9th November 2022)**

Summary and highlights:

The last 18 months has seen Preston School Association transition from “keeping things going” during pandemic restrictions right back to where we want to be: putting on full events for the school community and raising funds to enrich our school. The legacy of a healthy bank balance built up over previous years has enabled the PSA to support several “big-ticket” initiatives in the last 18 months, the most substantial of which included the outdoor classroom and pond, and purchasing Chromebooks to support remote learning, all of which were achieved while the previous generation of children were able to benefit from funds raised during their time at the school.

The Chair would like to express her appreciation to the small group of parent volunteers who helped to keep the PSA going during restrictions, such as the end-of-year open garden party on the last day of summer term 2021, the scaled-back Christmas Fair in 2021, and cinema nights, and discos in class bubbles, which were run more for fun than as a means of raising funds. It was also with great sadness but much gratitude that we said goodbye to several long-time PSA volunteers whose children have graduated to secondary school.

We are now regaining our prowess at running larger events, counting the Spring 2022 Art Exhibition Evening in March, supporting the Jubilee Celebrations in May, and Campover in July 2022 among our successes. Now that things are “back to normal”, we can look forward to building on the template set out in previous years with more in-person events, and hopefully encourage greater participation in events planning and running from among the parent body.

Special mention must be made of Treasurer Vicky Pullinger's efforts to innovate our financial set up. By using the Just Giving platform, we now have the ability to run specific fundraising campaigns and accept donations online. Vicky has also been responsible for introducing the ability to pay by card at events using SumUp which has been very welcome and convenient!

Given that we have had a fairly long period where our outgoings have been high but our ability to raise funds has been restricted, for the rest of the year 2022-23 and beyond, renewed focus will need to be on rebuilding our funds. As well as looking at our fundraising events, we should look at how we can maximise other sources of fundraising such as Amazon Smile and Give As You Live.

Finances:

- Total funds raised since the last AGM (21 Feb 2021): £5975.29
- Total financial donations to school in the same period: £11,168.27
- Financial donations included:
 - £6,200 towards the outdoor classroom
 - £2,200 towards the pond
 - £2,150 towards Chromebooks
 - £425 towards lockdown bears

- Various, smaller sums to support Y6 leavers' gifts, reception buddy gifts etc.
- Expenses for some events (e.g. Discos) have been much higher than in previous years owing to lockdown restrictions. For example, for the Autumn '21 and Easter '22 discos, the DJ was needed for longer to accommodate three sessions for each class bubble, rather than the customary two sessions for KS1 and KS2.

Events and fundraisers

Pond2Pond: This was a specific fundraiser where pupils earned sponsorship for walking / running / cycling to raise money towards the pond and outdoor improvements. It raised an impressive amount.

Profit: £1501.14

Bags2School: The most recent Bags2School collection raised £132. Future collections are planned for 15th November 2022 and 8th March 2023.

Profit: £132

Cinema nights for pupils: The PSA put on a number of "cinema" nights for pupils once pupils were allowed back to school after lockdown, but while some social distancing measures were still in place. Children were provided with a drink and snack. These were offered free of charge.

Profit: n/a

Autumn '21 and Easter Discos: It was great fun to see the return of disco events to school, although in a slightly altered format to allow for class bubbles. A small charge was made to help defray costs, but the events were not run as a fundraiser. At the Easter Disco, each pupil was also given an Easter egg.

Profit: £42.79

Christmas Fair 2021: It had been hoped that a full Christmas Fair would take place, but owing to Covid restrictions, parent volunteers rallied round to create a "mini" Christmas fair just for the pupils during the school day, including games, crafts, a tombola, and visit from Father Christmas. A small charge was made to defray costs and make a contribution to Make A Wish Foundation on behalf of Father Christmas.

Profit: n/a

Christmas Cards (My Art Project): This continues to be a reliable fundraiser. Thank you to the school staff who ensure the pupils produce such lovely artwork year after year.

Profit £117.88

Wine Glass Charms Fundraiser: Lovely handmade charms were sold on social media to parents.

Profit £87.21

Ice Cream Fundraiser: Locally-sourced icecream was made available to Preston families, with a proportion of profits being donated to the PSA.

Profit: £65.00

Quiz Night: The much-anticipated return of the PSA Quiz at the Red Lion, which provided hot snacks at cost, proved to be a fun and well-attended evening.

Profit: £375.10

Rainforest Art Evening: This was a new event format where the pupils' artwork from a specific project was displayed in the hall and parents and carers were invited to view the artwork while enjoying drinks and canapes. Additionally, all the work was pre-scanned by a local printer, and prints

and cards of the artwork were available for parents to order. This was quite an admin-intensive event, however, given learnings, might prove to be a good event to repeat in future. The evening itself was certainly well attended and very enjoyable.

Profit: £465.75

Jubilee: The PSA supported the school's jubilee celebrations with a licenced bar and other refreshments including tea, coffee, and "scone hampers". Costs outstripped takings for this event, although a lot of stock was carried forward to Campover. **Loss: (£115.57)**

Campover: Campover 2022 was very well attended and seemed to be very much enjoyed. As much of the format from previous years was replicated, although volunteers weren't as numerous as in previous years, meaning some of the entertainment (games, etc) were simplified. This year has provided a solid blueprint for future events, including enhanced health and safety routines. Special mention to the small group of volunteers who stayed on Sunday morning to clear up: this was the second-fastest camp clean up in recent memory!

Profit: £1070.97

Year 6 Performance 2022: The PSA provided refreshments at both performances.

Profit: £115.01

Everyclick / Amazon Smile / Give As You Earn: These initiatives continue to bring in funds, and they are starting to be more widely publicised. More information should be provided to parents to drive this further. Give As You Earn brings in by far the most amount of money.

Profit: £907.68

Nearly-new uniform: This is still available, and the inventory is published on the school website. Families who want uniform are invited to make a request via the contact form on the webpage or via a dedicated email address. Uniform is free of charge, though families can make a small financial donation to the PSA if they wish. The next focus of this initiative will be on more efficient storage and making sure the stock is available to view at all school events.

Profit: £18.00

Other initiatives

Leavers' gifts: The PSA was pleased to be able to fund gifts for departing Year 6 pupils again this summer term.

Tea and Tissues: It was with great pleasure that the PSA was able to hold "Tea and Tissues" on-site in September 2022 to welcome new reception parents.

Buddy gifts: The PSA also funded the purchase of small plush toys for the Y6 students to give to their new reception buddies.

Handbook: The Chair has started the process of compiling an online "handbook" with details of past events, contacts, lessons learned etc to help improve continuity between events.