



3rd November 2018

PTA President's Report 2018

Dear Parents,

Firstly, it is right and proper to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Tanya Scott and her small dedicated team of PTA volunteers for all their hard work and dedication, once again, this year. I would like to thank Mrs. Sawant, who stands down as Treasurer this year, for the sterling work she has done during her period in office. Thanks also go to Mrs Wild who has taken on this role and has worked closely with Mrs. Sawant over the past twelve months. Without them, the school would not have a PTA to raise the much-needed funds. Thank you all!

Academic year 2017-18 was another successful year for Valley's PTA with a total of £32,880 being raised. Last year's Summer Fair was one of the most successful raising a staggering £6657, the largest total in recent years. Additionally, the Christmas Card project proved to be as popular as ever and my thanks go to Miss. Charlotte English for her redesign and oversight of this initiative over the years. I'm sure the project will continue to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Ms. Cowood in the years ahead. Miss English also steps down from the PTA this year and I would like to sincerely thank her for all the numerous innovative and creative projects she has led over the years. With Miss Leveton and Mrs. Eaton-Sproule at the helm, the termly school discos run like a well-oiled machine and bring much enjoyment to our pupil body on those eagerly awaited Friday evenings. In March, the school hall was filled to the brim, once again, for the annual Grandparents' Tea Party and the 2017 Christmas Fair and newly introduced Family Games Afternoon also helped reinforce one of the PTA's main functions namely, Strengthening Community. My thanks also extend to Mrs. Abell for running the Summer-Term Friday stall and to Mrs. Quilty for recently introducing the second hand uniform sales.

At last year's AGM, the decision was taken to focus spending on the refurbishment and redesign of the school library to provide a new home for reading and, with the construction of a mezzanine floor, increase the communal learning areas within the school. Admittedly, progress with this project has been slow but we are now awaiting a final quote from a London architectural firm with the view to starting Phase 1 of this project during this school year.

While the majority of the PTA funds will go towards the library project, on behalf of the pupils and staff, I express our gratitude for the smaller projects and initiatives that were only possible as a result of the PTA support last year. These were:

- Black History Month Workshops
- Purchase of the new RE scheme for the school
- Year 6 Leavers' Books

I can't let this opportunity pass by without drawing everyone's attention to the ongoing squeeze on school budgets. Despite the recent announcement in the Budget that an extra £400 million will be offered to schools, at the moment, we could very well have to rethink the focus of the PTA funds in order to provide some of the daily essentials for teaching and learning at Valley instead of having the freedom to spend all money raised on the 'nice to haves'. It is for this reason that the PTA has explored new ways of raising money this year including the class Penny in the Jar campaign. This got off to a really positive start with £274 being raised in the first few weeks of the Autumn Term so please do keep those pennies rolling in.

By now, you will all have learnt that the PTA will be running the Christmas Fair this year and I would like to thank all those parents who stepped forward to answer the plea for more volunteers for this event. There is something quite life-

affirming about offering your time to give something positive back to the local community. With a pupil population of nearly 500, in theory, every parent only has to volunteer at two or three PTA events during their child's journey through primary school and this would undoubtedly lighten the load for the faithful few. I fully appreciate that we all lead busy lives but, if you are able to assist with one event this year, it would be extremely reassuring to see some new faces joining in with this vital fundraising work.

The sharing of ideas and the shape of this year's PTA work is cast at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on **Tuesday 6th November at 3pm** in The Studio so, if you can, please do come along and play your part in the ongoing success of the school's Parent Teacher Association.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Jackson
Head Teacher