

Watermore Primary School PTFA AGM

Tuesday 2nd October 2018

7.30pm Orchards Site

Chairperson's Report

Hello everyone, welcome and thank you all for coming.

My name is Rik Gibson and it has been my pleasure to Chair the Watermore PTFA for a fifth, and final, year. We have had another very successful year and I would like to take a minute to review a few highlights and thank a number of people.

10K (2017)

The year began as always with the Watermore 10K and Rainbow Run, organised by Nicola Ware and the 10K Committee. The 10K continues to go from strength to strength, growing in popularity and competitiveness each year, with this year no exception as we saw a significant increase in the numbers taking part. The late-September weather held firm once again and a highly-competitive Dads Race was won again by our Governors Chair, Colin Thompson. The Rainbow Run was also very popular as always, with many people young and old ending up in a variety of colours. My thanks once again to Nicola and the 10K committee for an extremely well organised and professional event.

Discos

The Infant Disco, now run by Hannah Manson & Hannah Lumby, moved to the earlier time slot of 4:15pm-5:45pm as it had been observed many times in the past that by 7:30pm many Reception children are exhausted and ready for bed. This move proved both popular and successful, and with no noticeable drop in adult bar takings. Meanwhile responsibilities for the Junior Disco were swiftly and efficiently assumed by Michelle Dickson. Thanks all.

Winter Festival

The traditional Christmas Fayre and our most logistically challenging event, this year with Team Winter led by Holly McDermott, continues to adapt to the challenges of scale presented by an increasing number of children and parents whilst still being limited to mostly indoor space. Moving back to a three-hour Friday evening slot whilst curtailing a few less-popular activities worked well, with the outdoor BBQ and Bars easing the pressure indoors, whilst Santa had his work cut out seeing three hundred children in three hours. Some say they also saw a woman leaving the premises with a wheelbarrow full of alcohol. We just call her Mrs Hoyle. Huge thanks to Holly and all of Team Winter for a massive effort at an already-very-busy time of year.

Gin Night

Our second Gin Night, organised by Sarah and Simon Way, had the misfortune of clashing with both Ed Sheeran in Cardiff and Taylor Swift in London and so was not quite as well attended as the previous year, however the quality of the Gin and food on offer more than compensated for this, and a very lovely summery evening was had all round. Thanks very much Sarah and Simon. Someone mentioned something about Rum next year...?

Summer Festival

The Summer Festival. What does one say about it? The weather? The beer and cocktails? The Football? The music? The dancing? The bizarre sight of grown men running around in fox costumes? What a day it was - a Roald Dahl themed extravaganza paired with an England World Cup Quarter Final beneath glorious summer sunshine. What could possibly go wrong? In the end, nothing - the gamble of showing the football on two big screens in the hall paid off and people came in their droves. Mr and Mrs Twit entertained the crowds with their unique brand of humour, children performed and danced, the bars ran dry and this chair got soaked in the stocks. Team Summer absolutely smashed it again, raking in their best ever takings and signed the year off in style. Nicely done Dan & co.

Other Events

Many other smaller events and fund-raising activities take place throughout the year between the major signature events, for example: Bags-To-School, Cake Sales & Film Nights and so many thanks to all involved in the organisation and execution of these.

Purchases

Compared to last year when we funded the outdoor science lab, we've spent relatively little this year. We felt that with the new school coming next year it would be prudent to not spend money on any infrastructure projects that we couldn't be sure would survive the redevelopment, and to keep a healthy cash reserve as there will undoubtedly be plenty of opportunity to spend it once the new build is finished and operational. However we have continued to fund many regular activities such as Christmas Pantomimes, funds for the school council, workshops for every class, Year 6 Leavers Dictionaries and hoodies, as well as many smaller equipment requests.

Thanks, and so long

Further to the thanks I have already given, there are many people who I would also like to express my gratitude to.

Firstly to my fellow PTFA Officers for their work this year - Vicki Butcher for her Secretarial duties, Andy O'Donnell for stepping up to take over from Chris Vice as Treasurer and Sarah Way for providing highly-capable Vice-Chair backup. To Chris for continuing to organise the purchasing and storage of our bar stocks, and to Emma Hopkins and her marquee team for getting those marquees up and down as needed.

To Mrs Hoyle and all of the school staff who help and support us throughout the year, to Nick and Jane Harris who run the BBQ at the big outdoor events, to Chris's Mum & Dad for the plant stalls, and the teas, coffees and cakes, to parents, companies and organisations who donate gifts and prizes, to parents and volunteers that help run stalls and of course to everyone that comes to our events and spends their money. To all of these people, I cannot thank you all enough.

Finally I would like to thank all of you - this committee, my friends and my co-pirates - for your time, dedication, creativity, energy, stupidity, the late nights, the papier-mâché, the unyielding will and sheer bloody-mindedness to get over the line. We've done amazing things together and it has been an absolute pleasure and an honour to work with you all.

It's been brilliant. You've all been brilliant.

Rik Gibson

October 1st, 2018