

Chair report 2018

Prae wooder's you did it!!! As our fantastic treasurer confirmed, the total income was a whopping £57,120 which includes the Barclays Compensation. But the event income was £34,074- the highest we have ever raised. Wow!

This would not have been achieved without you guys buying tickets, turning up at the events, spending & bringing stuff for us to sell! Using your business & trade contacts, making & creating such wonderful sets/props. We had fun with the creative themes this year I feel.

In my short chair-ship I am super proud to have been involved with the PWSA. At each of the 4 events I project managed I did worry that there wouldn't be enough helpers to set up & pack down, but there always was. I did worry that we hadn't advertised or interested people enough in the event and we wouldn't make enough money, but we always did- because as a school we are great at supporting our big seasonal events. We should thank ourselves 34,074 times!!!

I think the success of our 2 key events, Christmas & Summer fair is where our focus should continue. Although they do require a lot of planning, they have potential to raise a lot of money. The structure, stall ideas, how to guides, timelines, supplier details, email templates etc are all there! You are also supported by 13 superb Class Reps who co-ordinate their class stall. These events just need a group of mates to take on the overall planning for one event and give it a go!

I'd really urge you to chat to your fellow playground mates & see if you think you could come together to project manage one event.

You really won't keep hooked in forever I promise! I personally think these events work better when it is a different group of people each year, new ideas, different parents with different contacts and skills. It can be something you can just dip into (or out of as it suits!) I was Chair for only one year. Most of the projects I managed were while I wasn't working. The planning was done with friends from my year, either from our sofas, babies (at the time) having fun on a play date while we stalked other PTA pages & trawled Pinterest for ideas. Or they were planned over wine in the King Harry & lots of What'sAp messages.

Think of it as planning an oversized kids party?!!! I mean the size of the event not the kids?!!!

I make the focus of my chair report about people coming forward as project groups as there is a real worry that with no chair, vice chair or treasurer currently, it will be very hard to carry on with the exciting playground ideas and raise enough money for this, and the plans look great!!

Nor will we be able to carry on our existing commitments to the school. The workshops the kids have recently enjoyed are one of these commitments. They won't be able to come out of school budgets. Of course, the school will continue to plan great interactive work but won't be able to afford the same fantastic immersion days without PTA money to top up. In fact this year, the PTA increased the amount they gave to the school for immersion days, allowing the class teachers to have a wider choice of what they could afford to book.

It really doesn't have to be big scale events to make an impact. Eco kids is a brilliant new fundraising stream and super easy way to support the school suggested by a parent. We all seem to really like the chance to spring cleaning our wardrobes! I'm sure there are similar recycling initiatives we could look at to raise money.

Other new events, such as the style night, was a perfect example of a group of friends with their own businesses, with an idea for an event. They tried it out- resulting in a brilliant evening. Likewise teaming up with Gardenfields PTA to offer the Odyssey Saturday morning films was suggested by a parent, who had a friend at the other school.

If you have an idea, or initiative, or have heard of something that works in another school please just either come to a meeting or email the PTA. Or if you wish to have a turn at the Summer or Christmas fair planning- the plans are already there for you to use! There isn't a right or wrong idea. But there *is* plenty of support on how to implement an idea! And as proven time and time again- you Prae Wooder's are brilliant at getting behind things and raising money for the school- 34,074 times you did it!