



Annual Report prepared for the Annual General Meeting on 10th March 2017 at 9.30am in Kingston Community School Hall.

OVERVIEW

Kingston Community School PTFA was formed in the spring term of 2016. The Committee is made up of 2 Co-chairs, Treasurer and assistant Treasurer, Secretary and committee members.

The PTFA exists to organise events to bring together our school community, to engage with the wider community and to raise funds to enhance our childrens' educational experience. As we are a new school we feel that our role in bringing the school community together is as important as raising funds. We want our events to be partly social and priced in such a way that no one should feel that they can not come because of the cost. We always have some activities for "suggested donations".

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

Over the past year we have organised a series of fundraising events and activities.

- **Easter Egg Hunt 2016**

The Easter Bunny came to KCS and there was a crazy egg hunt, fabulous Easter Cake sale, face painting and Bunny Ear making and cookie decorating and all the children had a basket of eggs to take away. It was our first event and a wonderful way to celebrate our new school community.

- **The Lolly Trolley**

The Lolly trolley made it's first outing at our School Street party to celebrate the Queen's Birthday and subsequently came out at Sports day, most Fridays of the summer term and at any other hot day. We sold the small sized lollies at 50p each.

- **School Photograph**

While we had individual picture taken of our children by a company, we had not had a school photograph. We felt that, as the founding children, it was really important that we had a record of them. One of our parents is a keen photographer and he came and took the photograph which we arranged to be reproduced and mounted and sold to our parents. As this was done so late in the term we had to pay a premium for the printing and delivery, we did not lose money but it was not as profitable as it should have been. We hope to do this again but much earlier in the summer term so that we don't have to pay the premium prices for express delivery.

- **The Summer Fair**

Our biggest event of the year was our Summer fair. This was a wonderful celebration of our school and was incredibly well supported by the community and local businesses. The fair was opened by Councillor Andrea Craig. We had craft activities, face painting, games like Tin Pan Alley and Whack a Rat and a children's play area. There was a second hand toys stall, lucky dip, a cake stall, the lolly trolley, a bar for refreshments, a barbeque, our hugely popular Dragon's Den (come and meet a dragon (pet lizards belonging to one of our families) and an amazing raffle with 30 prizes from local businesses small and large. Our governors were on hand to mingle with our families as were friends from our community partners Kings Church and St Peter's church. We also have to acknowledge the amazing support and very practical help we received from our wonderful staff. As we were so new, we didn't have basic things like a PA system, trestle tables or a BBQ. Mrs Reilly arranged for us to borrow items from her rugby club and one of our parents works for Kingston Grammar School and arranged for us to borrow tables. Mr Yates was so helpful with practical advice on health and safety, lending us a BBQ and creating our fabulous Whack a Rat game not to mention his practical help on the day. Our staff also helped running the door, with toilet access and helping on other stalls. The day would not have been possible without them. The sun shone on us and it was a very special day for our school.

- **Fireworks Day cake and glowstick sale.**

In the autumn term we welcomed our new reception families, we had a great cake sale to celebrate bonfire night and we sold glowsticks and glow glasses.

- **The School Tea Towel**

A school tea towel is a fund raising favourite for many schools. As we are so small it was very special to have a record of all our children on one towel. We took advance orders for these so as to minimize waste and slightly over ordered so as to have extras to sell at the Christmas Fair.

- **The Christmas Fair.**

Our Christmas Fair was the main event of our Autumn term. In return for a donation to the church, St Lukes Church lent us their hall for us to hold a Christmas fair. Entrance included a hot drink for adults and a raffle ticket for our Hamper raffle. We had a savoury food stall, cake stall, we sold tea towels and Christmas decorations for the children to decorate. There was a Grab a Lolly Stall, Reindeer dust making and a lucky dip. The fair was held just after the Year One Christmas Concert which was held in the church next door and the reception children came over after school. It was very generous of St Lukes to let us use the hall but unfortunately it was not really big enough for us. We will need to look for a bigger space for next year.

All these events are so special for our school community and they have enabled us to buy various items for the school.

- **a PA system**
- **the School Christmas Tree and decorations**
- **We have funded the Living Eggs which have just hatched in school.**
- **Practical items like trestle tables and basic catering supplies.**

Very soon we will be purchasing a **School Piano**.

All our spending is discussed and decided in conjunction with Ms Cramp to compliment and enhance the work of the teachers and school activities.

MEMBERSHIP

We are a new PTFA and very small and all of our active members work or have younger children, so what we have achieved is even more impressive. We are always in need of more help and to engage more parents both in organisational roles and practical on the day event help.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Being Co-chairs of our PTFA has been an incredible learning curve for Jo and I. We are deeply passionate about our school but neither of us had had experience of running or being part of a PTFA so first we have to acknowledge and say an enormous thank you for all the help, advice and personal support we have received from Claire Hayles, Mrs Reilly and Mrs Bain in our early stages and since September, Ms Cramp. We would not have got off the ground had we not had them to turn to and keep us on the right track and their on-going support is invaluable and essential to our development. We would like to acknowledge the constant, utterly reliable, thorough and incredibly creative contribution Andrea Martinovska has made to our PTFA. Above and beyond her role as Treasurer, she has designed all our posters and signs, sourced all manner of creative supplies not to mention her beautiful baking contributions. We would like to acknowledge Aggie van Eijnsbergen's support in assistant treasurer role and her supportive contribution to the committee, her role as chief face painter and creative baker. Thank you to Leyla Robson who did a wonderful job as our secretary. Sadly she has had to step down due to work commitments but we are very grateful to her for everything she did to help us get set up and also to Alastair for taking our lovely school photograph. We would like to thank our committee members for all their solid work and support throughout the year. Marlena Dabkiewicz worked incredibly hard at School PR among local businesses and managed to secure many fabulous prizes for our summer fair and Kylie Denyer has been a constant, reliable support and very practical member in sourcing items for us, contributing creative ideas and a wonderful stall holder. We would also like to thank one of our regular helpers, Kristine Celosa and Winston not only for all their efforts but their donation of gazebos for our events.

Since September we have welcomed new active members in Tony Hamilton, Hannah Deveson and Rebecca Hancock and their contribution is very much appreciated.

We are really lucky to have parents and staff who have access to other organizations that have been able to lend us items most other schools take for granted notably Kylie and Matt Denyer who have been able to arrange for us to borrow items from Kingston Grammar and Mrs Reilly who has been able to help us with items from her local rugby club. We also need to thank Kings Church for all their very generous contributions to our events. They have sent us literally box loads of sweets, cakes and second hand toys for us to sell and have been a wonderful support to the school.

We are blessed to have incredible staff at our school who have embraced everything we have tried to achieve. We would like to thank our governors for their support and look forward to developing our relationship with them.

Finally, there would be no point in us putting in all this effort if our amazing community of parents did not come out and support us; their generosity directly benefits all our children and helps us build the unique, warm, creative, supportive school we all want for our children.

Our next event will be an **Easter Egg Hunt and Cake Sale** with face painting and craft activities on the last day of term. We look forward to this as well as all our other events.

Jo Wehring and Juliet Turner, co-chairs Kingston Community School PTFA