

The Gateway Primary Academy Parents & Friends Association

Annual Report 2015/2016

As Chair of the PFA, it is part of my role to highlight what we have achieved over the last year and what we are aiming for in the future.

It is an opportunity to thank those who have helped, and encourage anyone who would like to be more involved to come forward. We have had a very successful year and our events have raised £5,852.22 to support the school.

Unfortunately Miss Yeomans our Chair left the school at Christmas, she worked hard with the committee organising the Summer and Christmas fairs prior to her departure. Since she left we have had to appoint an interim chair which has meant some of the officers particularly Penny Eyles taking on more work to ensure the committee was still fully functioning.

Our current committee members are as follows:

Officers: Emma Dawson- Chair

Penny Eyles – co Vice Chair

Karen Gray – co Vice Chair

Christine Simpson – Treasurer

Danielle Amos - Secretary

Members: Mrs Overton, Vicky Osbon, Louise Castles, Sam Mahoney

One of the most important parts of this report is the fact that it is an opportunity to say 'Thank You' to everyone who has helped over the past year. We have an extensive list of helpers, including mums, dads, grandmas, granddads, governors and all our school staff.

We have been extremely lucky this year to have a large number of local and national sponsors who add to the success of our events by giving us assistance with raffles, prizes and match funding etc. Our thanks goes to all our sponsors including Barclays, HSBC and Wisdom Estates among many others. Last but not least, our thanks to the current committee members themselves, without whom none of the events would happen, they have worked tirelessly over the year to ensure that we were able to carry on this year to provide fund raising events for our school.

Below are the details of the events which we have run during the last year:

The Great Gateway Bake off and Easter Cake Sale 2015

For the third year running we hosted The Great Gateway Bake Off and cake sale. There were some fantastic entries and donations. The cakes were judged by the staff, and Easter eggs were given as prizes for 1st and 2nd place in KS1 and KS2.

Summer Fair 2015

We had all our traditional stalls and were treated to a number of class demonstrations from the children of what they had achieved in and out of school, with the choir, dance club, violins, Choral Project and Irish dancers amongst some of the entertainment. We had the usual bouncy castle, and an amazing climbing wall that really was the main attraction. The Summer fair made a fantastic amount of money, not least because of the sale of raffle tickets with such great prizes. For the first time the fair was advertised by Wisdom Estate agents, which helped raise additional funds. Our thanks to the committee for finding 50 willing volunteers to display their boards to advertise the fair.

Teddy Bears Picnic - September 2015

This has become our start of term annual event and now runs very smoothly. It is our opportunity to welcome the new Swans children and their families to school by holding a teddy bears picnic.

This event introduced the new parents to the PFA and explained our role within the school. We had very positive feedback, and the PFA ensure that all new prospective members were sent a meeting summary after each meeting to keep them informed of our forthcoming events.

Christmas 2015

The Christmas fair is always a firm favourite with the children. The Santa's grotto was provided by Kim and Colin Dillon (past parents) and was as usual spectacularly decorated. Their support is outstanding. Visiting Father Christmas was amazing and made the event even more special.

The staff made an amazing amount of money on their beautifully designed bottle stall, which is always a popular stall.

The bacon sandwiches were once again a great success. Special mention must go to Sam Mahoney and Vicky Osbon for coping so well cooking in the very busy kitchen.

We had very positive comments about the fair, the success of this event is down to a record number of volunteers, who do not bat an eyelid at having to stay on stalls for hours on end, and always keep a smile on their faces.

WHERE DID THE MONEY GO THIS YEAR?

This year we have helped to fund the installation of the play equipment in the KS1 playground with a donation of £11,500.

The PFA also donated the Easter eggs for the Easter treasure hunt and the refreshments for the Christmas and end of year leavers' discos.

Our accounts will be made available at the Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 26th April 2016 at 9.30am**

SUMMARY

As you can see despite having a much reduced committee and a reduction in people available to help us we have still been able to run a lot of the favourite annual events. This was only possible due to the small core group of members who have given their tireless support to making these events a great success. It is a combination of the hard work of both the PFA committee members and the other parents / helpers (and their children!) and staff who come to our events every year, helping to run stalls, sending in donations, making cakes, volunteering and so on, that makes the PFA able to carry on supporting the school.

This is the part of the report where I appeal to all parents to consider assisting us to ensure that these events can continue. If you are unable to commit to attending committee meetings which are usually held monthly during the school day then please consider in helping in other ways especially helping at events to run stalls or helping to set up and clear away.

As we know, all this hard work and fundraising means we can buy vital equipment for OUR school, benefiting OUR children!

We hope to continue arranging interesting money making events for everyone at The Gateway and we hope that we continue to receive the support from the school and the parents to enable us to do this.

SO HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Support the events by attending them and bringing your friends and family**
- **Donate your cakes, gifts etc.**
- **Buy the raffle tickets**
- **Help – before, during and after (Including dad's for setting up marquees, barbecue cooking, clearing up etc.)**
- **Delegate the helping to grandparents, so you can enjoy the event!!**
- **Find out if your company will match fund our events or provide raffle prizes/sponsor us at all**

OUR NEXT EVENT

The Summer Fair is on 18th June 2016 – Hope to see you all there!

Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

Emma Dawson

Emma Dawson
Chair (Y2 & Y6 parent)