



End of Year Report 2018-2019

At the end of my fifth and final year as Crockenhill School Parents' Association Chair, I look back at our achievements with an overall sense of satisfaction and pride. We raised a massive total of £11,784.44 (2017-2018 total £15,602.63) and from that funded the following projects: gardening club equipment; year 6 leaver's gifts; ice poles after sports day; gifts for the May King, Queen and Attendants at the Summer Fayre; £4000 for ICT upgrade and £1000 for cooking equipment. We still have £6000 to donate, we are still awaiting clarification of what school want us to fund.

In terms of members, there was undoubtedly a core that could be counted on, both at meetings and throughout our activities: Cat Ledbetter, Claire John, Alison Buchan, Clowey Bailey, Hazel King, Zoe Allen, Jane Bray and Joe Pennell, Amy Post, Emma Waterman and Emma Abonyi. You all wore so many hats – thank you so much for your continued support. In addition, we gained a new active member who has carried out the Secretary role this year: Sarah Keyword, you have been amazing and I really appreciated all of your help.

We continued to call upon our wider network of parent, grandparent and carer helpers for our bigger events. We could not run these without your generous support, and are extremely grateful for it. Unfortunately we still struggled with helpers at the Summer Fayre and as a result were unable to run three previously-planned stalls. It would be great if a few more people were able to donate just an hour of their time during the event to help us out.

I'm grateful too for the support of our head teacher, Karen Dodd. Our positive relationship created a strong Parents' Association team doing our best to raise funds to support our School. I am also very grateful to Mrs Griffin for being our link into school, we certainly bombard her with many things and she is always happy to help. Going forward, I would suggest that a member of the senior management team try to attend at least one meeting per term to assist us with dates and giving authority to run events as well as providing us with an explanation of the schools wish list for funding. This year we have only had one meeting at the beginning of the year where a member of staff attended to assist.

I want to say thank you and goodbye to one very special Parents' Association member, Claire John, who has been a parent at the school for 7 years and who in her time has taken on the role as the Parents' Association Treasurer. She has been

an essential part of the team and a huge part of the reason why the Association's activities have run so smoothly. Claire's involvement, pre and post events and throughout the rest of the year, has been significant and unwavering. She has been a great colleague and support to me, as well as fantastic to work with.

I also want to say goodbye and thank you to Zoe Allen, our beggar lady, designer of all things nerf and a truly fun and positive person to have around, there was nothing you wouldn't do, it was a pleasure to have on the team.

Finally, I would like to thank the parents and families of the children of Crockenhill Primary School. Without you we cannot achieve what we need to in order to raise the funds from which all our children benefit. Everything we do, and everything you spend, means more that our School can provide for our children. Your support is invaluable. Thank you.

The Parents' Association is for everyone and everyone's support is much appreciated.

Events

Our regular events - Harvest Fayre, uniform sales, Jubbly sales, Mothers and Father's day crafts, Bag2School, Christmas Fayre, Secrets Room and Summer Fayre - continue to be popular.

Unfortunately due to volunteer time constraints we were unable to run any adult events this year. We hope that next year we can fit one or two in as they are normally a great success.

We hosted another sold-out Ice Skating evening at Ruxley Garden Centre which was a great success. Everyone was able to purchase a ticket for ice skating at a cheaper rate than offered on a normal session and by doing so raised funds for the School. We will be trying to secure another date for November. We have also been approached to run a similar type event at Air Jump in Orpington, which should definitely be looked into.

Thank you to Jane Bray for organising Match Funding through Santander. This has enabled us to gain substantially increased funding for the Christmas Fayre and Summer Fayre. Thank you also to Alison Buchan, who logs every hour she volunteers for our charity so her employer Bank of America will support us. If she volunteers for 50 hours she can claim funding for us to the value of 250 dollars.

We have benefited from two grants this year. Thanks to Hazel King for taking time to prepare our submission which enabled us to achieve £1000 from Aviva's Community Fund to pay for cooking equipment and £100 from the WHSmith carrier bag levi.

We continued last year's Easter theme of the Mad March Hair and Easter Bonnet competition and added the Great Egg Race , which raised a phenomenal £1,202.36. The children looked fabulous as they paraded around the playground. So much effort had been put into making the egg mobiles and we had lots of fun racing them.

We were unable to claim money back via Gift Aid, as only 7 people completed the correct details needed for Gift Aid.

This year we have secured a discounted family panto outing at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley to see Aladdin on Sunday 8th December. We have sold 89 tickets at a price of £22, which includes a donation of £2 per ticket to help raised funds for the school. It should be a great outing which can be built on year after year.

School Association organisation and succession planning

We're very grateful to our outgoing team of first aiders: Alison Buchan, Amy Post, Claire John, Jo Hunt, Kate Brown, Susie Airlie, Winnie Yu (and myself) who turned up at every event to provide first aid cover. We have been lucky enough to fund a new team of four, Sarah Keywood, Hazel King, Amy Post and Charlotte Forshaw who will be the team for the next three years.

As with the last few years we have actively engaged with new parents when they attended the School. Recently Sarah Keywood gave a talk at the new parents meeting.

I have been very lucky to have had a great team to work with over the last five years in my role as Chairperson. I want to add an extra special thank you to Cat Ledbetter, thank you for standing by my side for the last five years, I would not have been able to carry out my role without you. I am extremely confident that as I step down from my role the Parents Association is in such a great place and will no doubt continue on successfully.

Moving forwards

The final thing that I would like to say is that, in today's busy world, the idea of a Parents' Association consisting of a group of parents with lots of spare time to organise things is very outdated. Our Parents' Association is a more modern version. Yes, we need a core team who are entrusted to make certain decisions on the Association's behalf. But we also need people who are willing to be called upon to help out in any way that suits them. We welcome everyone to join us, whatever they are able to offer. So whoever you are, whatever your role, I look forward to working together to make the next 12 months an even greater success.

Thank you,
Nicola Croucher
Chair
Crockenhill School Parents' Association