



Ashby Willesley Parent Teacher and Friends Association

Registered Charity No. 1095840

Ashby Willesley PTFA Chair Report 2021/22

I can't quite believe it has been an entire year since the new committee was established for what is now known as Ashby Willesley Parent, Teacher, and Friends Association. What can I say other than it has been a challenging but rewarding job trying to get to grips with everything the role entails; holding events, liaising with school and surviving our first ever 2-day event which saw every child come through the door and be transported to a Christmas winter wonderland.

Our ethos throughout the year and moving forward has been to do everything we can to provide exciting activities and events for all the children attending Ashby Willesley Primary School and raise funds that can help to provide equipment and experiences at school for all age groups. With that in mind, we organised two fantastic events that ensured each child, including those absent on the days, experienced something that hasn't been done before. Events that couldn't have been pulled off without immense dedication from committee members, volunteers and our two indispensable resident artistic directors who not only turned the studio into a festive explosion – but did the same thing at Easter creating a spring scene that instantly gave the feel of being in the countryside. I am sure however, that the repeated Encanto soundtrack playing throughout the event possibly pushed some PTFA volunteers to the brink of sanity..... Apologies. I would however like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you, nothing could have happened this year without the help and support of all of you.

Coming off the back of Covid, I am proud that we have been able to create these events for the children and staff, as well as putting together KS1 and KS2 tea towel and individual coaster packages as a Christmas fundraiser, not to mention the hugely popular Autumn raffle that saw some great prizes won! This academic year, we plan to hold another Christmas studio event, as well as some exciting new events such as a quiz, discos, and a summer fayre, so look out for messages about those throughout the year.

As ever, the one area in which we are struggling is numbers. Although we have seen some amazing turnout for events and behind the scenes jobs this year, we are always in need for more support. I am also aware that simply whispering the letters PTFA can cause some people to run in the other direction – but please let me clear a few things up. Firstly, if you do sign up as a committee member or volunteer, we do not own you! You are free to donate as much or as little time as you can manage. Our entire committee is run by parents; we all have jobs and commitments outside of the PTFA – not to mention of course, the kids! Being part of this charity involves giving a little time or

expertise, advice, occasionally biscuits, and helping to raise money for the school that your children skip in to everyday. Being a part of that is something I will remember for a long time to come.

If it is something you would like to know more about, please don't hesitate to contact myself or speak to other members and volunteers about the kind of things we do. We would love to meet you and start planning out this year, filling it with exciting events and building a relationship with school and the Willesley Community. Our email address is ashbywillesleypta@gmail.com.

So please keep your eyes posted for Weducs and look at our facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/willesleypta> for news on upcoming events and fundraisers. Also, feel free to come along to meetings and get involved in the discussion.

I cannot write this report without of course mentioning the recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We all continue to feel the loss of this great woman who was a shining example of what it is to dedicate your life to service, something that demands nothing but the upmost respect and admiration. Giving us an understanding of dedication that speaks to us all regardless of our age.

Lastly, another huge thank you for your continued support throughout this year. Hopefully as we move forward, we can continue to receive the amazing feedback from school, parents and the children that has kept us buoyed this year when rushing around. It has meant so much to us that we have been able to give the children these experiences. All in all, first year of the new committee, despite the inevitable stumbling blocks and learning curves, it's been a great year – so thank you all!

Kind regards

Kate Whitfield

Chairperson on behalf of Ashby Willesley Parent Teacher and Friends Association

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