**Chair’s report October 2020 AGM**

Good evening and welcome to the first and hopefully last Zoom AGM.

Thank you all for attending. We had nearly two terms of successful PFA events before Covid 19 struck so I would like to focus on what we all managed to achieve in that time.

**New initiatives**

We were a very small committee last year. However, we knew that there was a group of parents who were keen to support PFA activities, so we set up a new ‘PFA Volunteer’ facebook page to harness this support. We used this page to engage and bounce ideas off our volunteers. We also used the page to list out in advance any tasks that we needed help with and volunteers could then sign up for known tasks on an ad hoc basis.

This year, we ran a creche during our PFA meetings. This took the form of a movie running in the hall, supervised by a parent volunteer. Meetings were then held in a separate room and we aimed to finish the meeting at the same time as the movie. This worked well and I would recommend this going forwards in a post covid era.

We made steps towards running a more plastic-free disco, with children earning house points for bringing filled water bottles to discos, instead of purchasing disposable plastic water bottles.

**Events**

We had great volunteer and parent support for the ‘Chocolate tombola’ at the Christmas Light Switch On and also for all the discos that we put on in the first two terms.

The Christmas fair was successful once again, thanks to the support of parents’ donations and staff manning the stalls along with a few parent volunteers.

Unfortunately, Mother’s Day gifts had to be returned to stores at the last moment as the school closed.

This also meant that Easter bingo was cancelled, despite the event being prepared for and a number of Easter Eggs already being donated by parents. Raffle prizes had also been generously offered by parents and local businesses. (The Easter Eggs were handed out to children by Mr Whiston during lockdown.) The PFA donated the rest of the 2020 disco stock (circa £20) to the children attending school during lockdown for the school’s VE Day celebrations.

**PFA benefit to the school**

The Treasurer’s report will detail the purchases made. I am sure you will all appreciate that we were all still in the fundraising mode for Activity Week when lockdown came. So, I would just like to highlight the non-financial benefit of the PFA for the school.

The school discos are lovely events for the children. The children really enjoy this social aspect to the school calendar and the discos also help to encourage independence.

The PFA held a picnic event in the Autumn term just prior to our first meeting. This provided an opportunity for Reception parents and parents of other years to meet socially.

The PFA also help provide refreshments after school events and help in a number of other ways, e.g. decorating the school hall at Christmas.

**Governance**

The annual return was submitted in good time to the charity commission.

I was keen to move towards online banking for the PFA and was brilliantly supported in this by our Treasurer. We now have an online bank account with Lloyds.

As Chair, I was asked to update both the constitution and the PFA page of the school website. I duly updated them. (N.B. The updated constitution was agreed at the last PFA meeting and included an ‘Annexe’ which clearly set down our funding aims. The constitution can be found on the PFA section of the school website.)

**Update on Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury Boxing gloves**

The PFA own boxing gloves belonging to Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury. They were donated in order to help raise funds for the school. The plan is to auction them on the Alexandra Football Club website before the next big fight, hopefully in 2021, once confirmed. (The match was intended for 2020 but was postponed).

**Thank yous**

I would like to thank the outgoing committee for their time and their support. As a small team, we have all had to wear a lot of hats and perform several roles this year! I would also like to thank previous PFA Chairs for their advice whenever we asked them for help. As a brand new committee, their support was invaluable to us.

Despite being a Parents & Friends Association, this is in name only as the teachers play a massive role in the PFA at Highfields. There were teachers supporting us at every event that we ran and there were always teachers present at our meetings after school.

Finally, a thank you to the ‘PFA fairies’ who show up time and again to help run our events, decorate the hall for the children at Christmas and also help out with selling raffle tickets and serving tea and coffee after school performances. We cannot operate without you.

Best wishes for the future,

Carlie Wright