

Dickens Heath CPS Parent Teacher and Friends' Association

Annual Review 2017-2018

The committee of Dickens Heath Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) is a group of volunteers working to support the school by raising money for things that the normal school budget can't stretch to.

Review of the Year

In the school year September 2017-July 2018, PTFA events raised more than £12 900 towards equipment and opportunities for the children. Events and activities held during the year included:

- School fayres (Autumn, Christmas, Easter and Summer)
- Discos (Halloween, Valentine, Summer)
- One film night
- Three dress down days
- Easter raffle
- Christmas art and cards project
- After-school tuck shops

Additional funds were raised via donations and match funding from employers of parents involved in PTFA activities. PTFA funds have been spent or pledged for the following:

- Audio visual equipment for the school hall (£7K)
- New blinds for the school hall (£2.5K)
- School farm upkeep and equipment (£3K)
- New sports team kits, including football, netball, multi sports (£2K approx. pledged – on order)
- Contribution to the annual leavers party (£210)
- Contribution to the cost of T-shirts for the school production (£160)

The year ahead – what are we raising money for in 2018/2019?

Mrs Nicholls and her team have identified potential purchases to be made using donations from 2018/19 PTFA funds. These include:

- Improvements to outdoor areas (e.g. FS1, FS2 and Year 1 areas – including equipment, decking, re-surfacing, drainage, canopies. Upgrade of playground area, including trim trail.)
- IT equipment – PCs and iPad/ tablets.
- New piano for the school hall.

We are keen to link into the children's learning and development activities where we can. For example, we hope the funding of equipment and improvements to the physical environment will aid the school's emotional health and wellbeing programme (SMILE). We've also been able to support the "Life Ready" initiative and we were very proud of the enterprising Year 5 pupils who set up and ran their own businesses at the Summer fayre, raising a fantastic £663 and acquiring some valuable new skills in the process. We will be running this activity next summer for the current Year 5 pupils.

Changes to the PTFA Committee

Our thanks to Debbie Smith who stepped down from the PTFA Committee at the end of the summer term. Debbie was a PTFA committee member for six years and served as Chair for the last two years. Her contribution has been invaluable, and she leaves the PTFA at the end of a record-breaking fundraising year. We were pleased to surprise Debbie with a thank you gift from Mrs Nicholls and the children at an assembly in July. Those of you who know Debbie will know that that she has boundless energy and enthusiasm - so it will not surprise you to hear that she is now busy supporting the school's marketing and promotion activity, as well as helping as a volunteer at PTFA activities whenever she can.

Governance

Activities by the Dickens Heath CPS PTFA are guided by a constitution, which may be viewed on the PTFA website: www.dickensheath.org.uk. The PTFA committee consists of an elected Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who are voted in at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), as well as other ordinary committee members.

Nominations received to date for elected members of the 2018/19 committee are as follows:

- Chair – Beth Hodgetts
- Secretary – Jane Keiser
- Treasurer – Sharon Hall

Nominations for ordinary members of the 2018/9 committee are as follows: Kate Cooper, Elaine Shannon, Claire Ramsey and Kelly Jones.

PTFA finances are reported to the Charity Commission each year and are reviewed by a suitably qualified independent person. Our thanks to Rachel Simonczyk (parent of three DHCPs pupils) for completing this task. Our accounts are also provided for public scrutiny/to be signed off by members of the PTFA at our AGM and can be viewed on our website www.dickensheath.org.uk.

How we communicate

The PTFA committee communicates events, volunteer requests, fundraising totals, funding decisions and other information via the following channels:

- Website: www.dickensheath.org.uk
- Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DickensHeathPTFA/>
- Termly newsletter on Parent Pay and in book bags

Thank you

We say this often, but we can't say it often enough. Thank you to every pupil, parent, friend, teacher and grandparent who has attended or helped at a PTFA event.

The PTFA would especially like to thank our caretaker Mr McEvoy (known to everybody as Mac!) for his help, Mrs Halsey and the team in the school office for their ongoing assistance, and of course our teachers and headteacher, Mrs Nicholls, without whose support none of this would be possible.

The PTFA Team

22nd October 2018