

## **St Michaels & St John's PFTA - Chair's Report 30 November 2018**

### **Introduction**

The previous AGM was held in School on 17 November 2017.

This meeting was the first headed by the current Committee, and reflected on a fantastic year of events and fundraising. The Committee was re-elected for a second year and therefore comprised Caroline Carr (Chair), Kay Curphey (Treasurer) and Tess Walker (Secretary).

### **Events/Support/Fundraising**

During the 2017\_18 School Year we organised and helped to run several successful events, which have raised valuable funds for school and were really enjoyable for the Children. The first of these was the 'Spooky Disco', followed by the Infant & Junior Film Nights, the Christmas Fair, the 'Valentines' Disco, World Book Day book sale/sponsored read, 'Bags2School' and Chocolate Bingo.

This year the Summer event was the Fair (last event of the School Year), which took place in June, right around the time of the World Cup and subsequently included some football-themed activities/stalls. This was a superbly organised event especially given the scale, and included new activities such as the bouncy castle, which proved hugely popular. We also had delicious food courtesy of Cecille, who makes Jamaican and Italian food in her shop and kindly catered at the Fair serving food such as chicken, rice and beans which were delicious and very popular!

We have raised significant funds during the School Year with the big earners including the discos, fairs and film nights, which have paid for several important and much-needed items (Reading Books, EYFS Outdoor Area) as well as subsidising events such as School Trips, which may not have been so affordable otherwise.

We really appreciate parent, pupil and staff suggestions for ideas on how funds could be spent, but we are constrained by the 2016 Model Constitution which states our objectives as:

- 2.1 Developing effective relationships between the staff, Parents' and others associated with the school;
- 2.2 Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

Suggestions for items to be funded therefore ultimately have come from/via the School – Staff and Student Council – and represent what they consider to be the priority items for funding.

We also supported events including the First Holy Communion for our Y3 Children – setting up the Assembly Hall, helping to serve the beautiful cake (paid for by the PTA and again made lovingly by the very talented Vina Hodges!) and lemonade, and clearing away afterwards.

We attended the new intake evening for the 2018\_19 Reception Children - introducing ourselves to the new parents, describing what we do and what the monies raised go towards, and drumming up support!

### Support

It is important to say that the SSMJ PTA does not consist of just the Committee. Without the support and enthusiasm of other parents who come to meetings and volunteer to help run these events, we could not continue, and that would impact negatively on the School and most importantly the Children, many of whom are our own. They would not enjoy as many fun events as they currently do, or benefit from the monies raised which filter into so many aspects of School life.

Thanks are due to everybody that has donated items, or food (cake!) for the events we have run. Also for supporting their children by allowing them to attend (and accompanying them to) events such as the discos.

We also have the valued input and support of the staff at School – Mrs Mabbott and the Teachers/Teaching Assistants, Mr Moon for all of his practical help, Mrs Fielding for the use of the school Kitchen, and Mrs Wilkinson who does so much to help us organise and implement our ideas, not least through relentless advertising through the channels of the Newsletter and ‘Teachers2Parents’ App.

Thanks too to Kevin Shepherd at the SSMJ Social Centre (now ‘the Old School Rooms’). We continue to be allowed to use the venue for free for events such as the discos, enabling more of the monies raised to be ploughed back into School.

### Moving forward

As described above, anyone wanting to come along to the meetings is very welcome...we always need help with the brainstorming for events and fundraising, and helping out at events. We appreciate that not everybody can attend meetings, and not all of the time, but any contribution that parents, friends, teachers etc. can make is hugely welcome.