

Chair's Report 2017-18

The PTFA has had a fantastic year 2017-18 with great contributions from parents and friends alike. Fundraising kicked off to a great start with a record-breaking bonfire organised by Claire Hepworth and team, followed by a lovely Christmas Fair organised by Pam Cocker and the wonderful Christmas cards organised by Caroline O'Connell. Christine Jackson very kindly continues to produce a calendar each year solely for the PTFA. We also represented the school at the Mechanic's Christmas fair and Rachel Smith kindly helped us to sell some of the Eyam shopper bags at the Christmas market. Other fundraising events included a curry night at Curry Cottage with profit to school organised by Emily Williamson, regular film nights organised by Eleanor Ross, the summer fair, and the race night in September (thanks to Lucy, Laura and Louise), followed by a great trip to see Eyam at the Globe (thanks to Emily W). Apologies if I have missed anything! These events do more than just raise money for school but also help us to spread the word about the work school is doing, allow potential pupils to see the school and enable us to be part of our wider community. Thanks also go this year to Sophie Bell for setting up the school lottery – this is a great way to raise funds so please do consider joining up, we've had several winners already!

In terms of what this provided for the pupils at school, in the last year we have taken the whole school to Chesterfield observatory to support their learning about space, as well as paying for half of all trips last year and for visiting speakers/events including a Planetarium, author, illustrator and circus skills day, to name but a few! The PTFA also contributed towards a much-needed interactive whiteboard in squirrel classroom, as well as other play and learning resources.

Looking ahead, preparations are well underway with parents asked to help with bonfire toffee, wood collection, on the night on stalls and with clear up the next day, amongst other tasks. We will also hold a stall at the Mechanic's Christmas Fair again, and at the local craft fair where we will sell cards, bags, calendars and postcards. In addition, Richard Eades of Hulley's has very generously donated a coach to us for the day to run our Christmas Shopping trip to Lincoln Market on December 9th. In terms of where the money will go, we are hoping to contribute towards an extension in school and to continue to provide half of the cost towards all trips, enriching the learning experience for all pupils.

None of the events and fundraising could have happened without the support of the parents, carers and friends of children at Eyam School. Thank you to everyone who has helped out over the last year. If you have any ideas for future fundraising or ways to get more parents involved, please speak to your class representative. The PTFA is for everyone so I hope very much that all parents, carers and friends feel that they are very welcome to contribute and participate. There are very likely to be exciting ideas lurking that the current committee and attendees have not thought of! It is with this in mind that I am standing down as chair, to give a chance for new ideas to flourish! I am very happy to help in whatever capacity I can, however, and will continue to attend meetings and help at events. Thank you for all the support I've had in the role.