Chairman's PTA AGM Report 2022

2022 saw us return to 'normality', or at least a 'new normal', and this meant we were able to run a full calendar of PTA events without restrictions for the first time in over 2 years. Everything felt all the more special as a result! More events, of course, meant more hard work from the PTA team. With a number of key longstanding PTA members leaving the school last Summer, we certainly had a lot to learn in a short space of time in order to be able to still deliver the high standard of events that our school community has come to expect. Thanks to a winning combination of fantastic teamwork and incredible individual contributions, I feel confident in saying we rose to the challenge and I'm truly proud with what this 'new' PTA team have achieved.

Here's a rundown of the events we ran in 2022 and funds raised:

Lego Competition (January) - £65
Our inaugural PTA Lego competition was held in January. We were so impressed with the standard and creativity of the children's entries – they made Mr Howe's job very tricky indeed! He did, however, finally decide on 4 winners (2 more than he was supposed to but who's counting!). Each received a £10 Lego voucher as their prize. An overall winner was also chosen and received the winning 'Speldhurst School Lego Master 2022' trophy. We had a great response so this will become an annual PTA event.

Art Exhibition (March) - £940
It was such a joy to see the beautiful artwork produced by our children on display in the KS1 & KS2 Art Exhibition back in March – we definitely have a few budding Van Goghs and Banksies in our midst! The team did an incredible job of setting up and dismantling the exhibition in between days and still making it look so professional – not an easy task but it paid off!

Mini Marathon (1st April) - £3500
The Mini Marathon marked the first chance parents had to join their children for a PTA event at school since 2019, resulting in an incredible atmosphere. Despite the freezing temperatures, the children, parents and teachers all seemed to have a truly wonderful time. A visit from the real-life Easter Bunny topped it all off!

Family Fun Day (14th May) - £1642
Well, the sun turned out and so did the families! This was the first Family Fun Day the current PTA Team had run and we were delighted with how well received it was, with around 3 in 4 school families joining us. It was so lovely to be able to relax and socialise within our beautiful school grounds. The event will now be a regular fixture in the PTA calendar.

Jubilee Non-Uniform Day (27th May) - £119
It was lovely to see all their children in their most regal attire for our Jubilee non-uniform day at the end of May. We worked together with the school to create a wonderful day of picnics, creating crowns and having their photo taken with 'the Queen'!

Jubilee Tea Towels (June) - £498
It seems tea towels are as popular amongst parents as ever! The children's self-portraits were both beautiful and entertaining in equal measure and we're so delighted we were also able to add a Jubilee element to them this year and include a picture of Queen Elizabeth II, making them even more of a keepsake.

Sports Day Cafe (15th July) - £376
It was so fantastic to all be back at Sports Day again this year. Running the Sports Day café was a lot of fun (and chaos!) - thank you to everyone who supported the cafe by volunteering and buying drinks and snacks. The berries and pastries proved very popular so we'll make sure they're back on the menu next year.

90's Disco (1st July) - £65
This was the child-free social event that Speldhurst parents had long been waiting for! It gave us all a fantastic opportunity to let our hair down and regress to our youth. The dance floor was as busy and sticky as it should be by the end of the night! This was the first event of its kind and, whilst not a big money maker this time around, it brought us all together and helped us shake off the restraints of the pandemic. We're looking forward to seeing what Chloe has planned for the Coco Bongo bar in 2023!

PTA Logo Competition (June) – Free entry
An inspired moment from Kelly Kyte meant she came up with the idea of solving the challenge of coming up with a new PTA logo and involving the children by turning it into a competition. We now have a shiny new logo thanks to Dylan Morgan-Schauer, who won the competition, and Tessa Hewitt, who turned it into a graphic for us as her parting gift for the school.

Quiz Night (7th October) - £1333
Always a favourite in the school calendar, we were very happy to be able to host the quiz night without restrictions in early October. This was Sandra Berlin's first year taking over the reins from Charlotte Williams and she did a sterling job. Great fun was had by all who attended and a fabulous amount of money was raised. Well done to "The Wild Ones" who were the winning team once again! A special mention also needs to go to the teachers who came a very respectable 2nd place.

Pumpkin Competition (October) - £27
Another first in the PTA calendar. It was great to see the wide variety of pumpkin carving creations from the children. Winners were awarded glow gifts in assembly and all involved received a certificate of participation.

Fireworks (6th November) - £6642
The Bonfire and Fireworks event was a wonderful night which brought the school and local community together. Despite the wet weather and muddy terrain, tickets were sold out, the fantastic fireworks didn't disappoint, and all our stalls were busy, selling hotdogs, drinks, candy floss and glow gifts. Huge thanks to the 90 or so volunteers who helped to make it happen. This was Charlotte Williams and Weezie MacPherson's first year running the show and what an achievement to raise a record-breaking £6642 for the school.

Odd Socks Day (14th November) - £201 (£100 donated to Anti-Bullying Alliance)
It was great to see the children take part in Odd Socks Day and to focus all our minds on the importance of being actively against bullying. It was all the more special this year now we have our very own in-house Odd Sock at school and it was wonderful to receive a message from Andy and all the band on the day, thanking us for our support. £100 was donated to the ABA charity in support of their ongoing work and the remainder will be spent on anti-bullying resources for the school.

Bag2School (28th November) - £128
Our first Bag2School collection took place on November 28th and was a great success! We collected over 320kg of clothes to be recycled and repurposed. A 2023 collection date will be agreed soon.

Christmas Jumper Sale (22nd November) - £93
Our 2022 preloved jumper sale was a great success with 31 jumpers sold…nearly all our stock! We are already collecting jumpers for our 2023 sale and are hoping to make it bigger and better than ever.

Christmas Cards (December) – profit tbc
A huge thanks to Katie Harle who helped co-ordinate the creation of 200 plus Christmas cards for us again this year! This was our first year using the new online ordering portal from the Christmas Card company and it wasn't without teething problems but the Christmas cards all looked fabulous when they arrived. Payment and a statement should be received in the coming days.

Christmas Events (December) – £443.66
Christmas is always great fun at Speldhurst School and this year was no exception! The children were treated to a visit from the 'real life' Father Christmas, a trip to the grotto to choose gifts for parents, a pantomime from the Cat's Grin Theatre Company and drinks and crisps/popcorn with their Christmas film. A huge thanks to our very own Mrs Christmas (Claire Fox) for pulling this all together.

Other:

Amazon Smile - £87.50
NB - Amazon Smile will no longer be running this facility from February 2023.

Cake Sales - £765
I think we were all glad to have cake sales back in the diary again! These are a great money earner for individual classes and allow teachers to stock up on much-needed new classroom resources. The average cake sale raised £110 so thank you to all the parents for their cake contributions.

Easyfundraising - £29.56

Pre-loved Uniform - £366
The pre-loved uniform team had a fantastic year with 3 table-top sales taking place, including at the Pippin parents' induction.

How the PTA supported the school?

We are proud to say that, through the events outlined above, the PTA has raised over **£17,000** for our school in 2022. This, added to the healthy balance that we opened the year with, has allowed us to help the school in a number of ways.

There has been an ongoing focus on supporting the emotional and mental wellbeing of the children, which has been needed more than ever since the pandemic. In Summer, a further **£7000** was committed to the school's ongoing wellbeing programme. This includes contributing £500 per month to counselling and £1600 to the redecoration of the Woodland Room and purchasing additional resources for use within it.

With the world opening up again, school trips are back on the agenda and we recently paid £3000 towards school trips for the 2022/23 school year.

Other lower value items purchased using the PTA money included:

- Second hand phones for SumUp machines
- Year 6 dictionaries
- Contributions to the Year 6 yearbooks
- The Jubilee tree which is now in place on the school grounds
- Pencil cases and stationary for Year 3 students

The treasurer's report details all costs and proceeds.

Looking to 2023, there are hopefully several large and exciting school projects which will come to fruition which will require considerable financial support from the PTA.

Firstly, we are hopeful the school will received planning permission soon for a new SEN space. In the last PTA meeting, we agreed to pay £8000 towards the building of this room which will be make a huge difference to staff and children.

We have also been fundraising for the new school kitchen, which we hope will receive final funding approval this Spring. We anticipate a value of £15,000 - £20,000 will be required as the PTA contribution. So far, we have raised £6000 towards this amount and fundraising for this will continue throughout 2023.

We are also working with the school to look at how we can 'spruce up' the former library/ICT suite and transform it into an Arts Room. This will be done on a limited budget in the short-term until the larger projects listed above have been completed.

We close 2022 in a very strong position. We have a healthy bank balance to support the big plans for 2023 and hope these get the green light soon. We have some big events lined-up and a fabulous team of parents who continue to support the school with their time, energy, passion and commitment. Amongst us, some have had to go the extra mile with some very late nights sifting through 2nd hand uniforms, painstakingly moving artwork around the school, writing up meeting minutes, or dealing with what felt like the wettest Fireworks ever (not only delivering a spectacular show but also then tirelessly working through the muddy aftermath).

A massive thank you to all of the committees and individuals who made things happen. A thank you too to the parents who volunteered to help at events and supported with attendance. Last, but by no means least, thank you to Mrs Hayward, Mr Howe, Martin Steibelt, the office team (old and new) and the teachers for their unwavering support and encouragement.

Sean Willis (PTA Chair, 2022)