



Ashby Willesley PTFA

Registered Charity No. 1095840

Chair Report 2023/24

Where has the year gone?!

The year started with our annual general meeting where we welcomed a new committee member – Tanya Hudson-Gotobed. A huge thank you to Tanya and all the other committee members for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

We started with the return of our Spooks and Sparkles disco. Acorns had their first taster of a Willesley School disco which resulted in many happy, smiley faces. With the help of committee and parents/carers we were able to hold discos for all year groups, the atmosphere was fantastic, and the children had a great time. A special shout out to Hayley Shilton for DJing!

Onto our Christmas Market. This was a new event for the current committee, one which we thoroughly enjoyed. With 18 local stall holders showcasing their products, mulled wine and mince pies it was a great evening for all involved.

Also, in the Autumn term we offered all of the children a Christmas experience in the form of our Winter Wonderland. Every child at Willesley was given the opportunity to take part in Christmas themed activities including decorating their own bauble, making reindeer lollipops, lucky dips and other games and crafts. Our bauble making demonstration and exploding Rudolph was a hit with the children. Thank you to our STEM ambassador Nikki Jupp for organising it and leading the demonstrations. As always, a huge thank you to the numerous volunteers who joined us. This sort of event would not be possible without the support of the many volunteers who attend for the two days, generously giving their free time and commitment to make it a special experience for the children.

On returning after Christmas, we battled the February blues with our adult only quiz night. Mrs Dilks kindly offered to be quizmaster for us again producing some great questions and really making the evening a huge success. Look out for the return of the quiz night this February – it's a great way to team up and spend time with friends. Easter saw the return of the chocolate bingo – a fantastic event for all the family. Thank you to Hayley Shilton, our resident bingo caller and to everyone who donated prizes.

Finally, we held our summer fair. Unfortunately, the weather didn't seem to get the memo about it being a summer fair and we were hit with torrential rain and gale-force winds. We were certainly glad we had a wet weather plan in place this year! We were lucky to have performances from the school choir – thank you to Mrs Hender for organising this for us - as well as singing and dancing from local dance schools - Jaks Academy and Moondance Studios. This year we invited more local artisan traders with a great selection of products for all ages, amazing pizzas from Sever's Pizzas as well as our own volunteers running games and stalls such as face painting, hook a duck, splat a rat, beat the goalie, and play your cards right. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for the time and

effort they all put into this event. Despite the weather we still had around 500 people attend the fair and made in excess of £3000.

We could not achieve any of this without the support of the school staff, the children, family, friends, and the wider community so a huge thank you to you all! And of course, none of this would be possible without the committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes and attend all the events to make sure that they all run as smoothly and successfully as possible, so a massive thank you to you too.

We are planning some great events for this year so please keep an eye out for those and support us wherever you can. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions so if you feel that you can help in any way, whether by joining us on the committee, behind the scenes, at an event or providing sponsorship, we would love to hear from you! We are particularly in need of new committee members this year as some of our current members are stepping down. It is a very rewarding role and without the extra hands, it could impact on what we are able to offer children and parents/carers this year. Please consider joining us if you can.

Marie Miller

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