

## **Chairperson's Report – AGM 2020-2021**

It is a pleasure to present my report for the school session 2021-2022 and start the formal AGM business of the meeting.

The last few years have brought about many changes for us all in our day to day lives so it is nice to finally feel like we are coming out the other side of that by meeting in person tonight. This year we have continued to move forward as a Parent Council. 6 zoom meetings were held over the course of the year with this meeting being our 7<sup>th</sup> of the session. Our meetings have taken place on various days of the week in a bid to be accessible to as many parents as we can. Attendance has varied from 11-16 parents with the school always represented by Mrs Thomson and members of the senior leadership team or class teachers. It has been amazing that despite meeting virtually we have welcomed several new faces this year – Kirsty, Vicky and Erin and this evening Joanna and we thank them for joining the zoom meetings and for the contributions they have made. As always, all parents have been invited to all meetings and we have shared all information through the school Twitter page and website. We have continued our meetings in the same format as previously, alternating school business and parent council business and including an active agenda where parents are welcome to put items forward to the agenda.

Parental engagement has been a focus for us the past couple of years and is something we have continued to be mindful of this session although we have not been able to involve parents in the way we previously did. We have an up-to-date visible section on the school website. We have provided termly newsletters and we have managed to run a number of successful events and fundraisers this year. With events resuming, we are able to welcome some additional parent volunteers to our upcoming movie night.

At school level this year, we were updated at the start of the year on the school improvement and recovery plan, we shared our thoughts on the curriculum rationale and on homework as well as hearing the school position on the current behavior policy before hearing about attachment theory from a student educational psychologist. On top of this, Mrs Thomson also updated us every month about anything happening within the school and it's been nice to hear more and more of the "old" events creep back in to life at ROMPS.

We have been able to hold a number of successful fundraising events this year.

The first of these was the 2021 miles challenge in October.

This challenge was successful for a number of reasons – it was an opportunity for the school community to work together towards a shared goal, and an opportunity for families to come together and for me, those are 2 of the most important things we can do as a Parent Council. The event raised a fantastic £983 on top of this.

Following this, we ran a Halloween coin challenge later in October. Once again, we thank the pupils and staff for their fabulous creative efforts and for raising £191.71 through this challenge.

In November we were delighted to take part in the Border Biscuit and Rotary Club partnership and raised £338.50 from sales of biscuits. This was our most successful biscuit sales due to the pre-purchase of a stock of biscuits and it was agreed that if we are fortunate enough to take part in this promotion again in future years, we would repeat this way of organising and running this event.

Then in December it was lovely to be able to be back in the school, albeit outside to run the Christmas gift sale. Great efforts from all resulted in a lovely morning and a profit of £535.55 which was another fantastic result.

I will take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the organisation and running of any of the above events. There are too many names to name in person but I have thanked everyone after each event and take this opportunity to thank everyone again; from making sponsor forms or posters, purchasing gifts for the sale or helping on the day, delivering biscuits or giving up your living space to store them. I genuinely appreciate the effort of each and everyone involved and never forget that anyone doing so does so of their own time and from the goodness of their heart.

Looking ahead, as we have discussed earlier in this meeting, we end the year with the fundraising movie night and book sale. Movie night has always been a really successful event for the children, so fingers crossed after a long break this one is enjoyed just as much! Once again, to echo my earlier thanks to all those involved in the organising or running of the movie night.

While these fundraising events have been very successful, we remain mindful that due to the circumstances of the past 2 years we had to fundraise heavily between the months of October and December and while this was unavoidable this year, it is something the Parent Council should try to avoid in future years. Where possible, a late summer fundraiser followed by Borders Biscuits and the Christmas Gift sale would be a better balance for families.

Through the above efforts we have been delighted to be able to provide for the pupils of ROMPS this year:

- Attendance at the Christmas pantomime at the Memorial Hall – the entire proceeds of the miles challenge was donated towards this cost.
- A hot chocolate and s'more treat for 3 winning classes of the coin challenge.
- A storytelling and Christmas s'mores treat for every pupil in the school. This replaced the cash donation we previously made to classes and was very well received and could be repeated in future years if agreed.
- A contribution of £150 towards the P7 yearbook.
- Ties for P7 leavers
- Gym T-shirts for P1 entrants, replacing the gym bags previously given.

- On top of this, for the first time, we are providing a summer treat for every pupil in the form of a silent disco experience. This treat replaces the contribution we previously made to the P7 treat which benefited only the P7 pupils.

Over the last few years, we have worked hard on ensuring the Parent Council is operating in line with the most up to date guidance:

We have produced a privacy statement

Completed risk assessments for events which can be used as a baseline for future events

Ensured we have followed guidance on PVG and ratios to safeguard our children

Been represented at SLC Parent Council Chair meetings.

As I draw to a close, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to my fellow Parent Council members who have given their time and efforts during the past year whether that be attending one meeting, several meetings or the thanks expressed earlier to everyone involved in the events run this year. Jennifer Fisher took on the role of lets secretary this year and booked and then subsequently had to cancel almost all our meeting dates. Thanks to Jennifer for her work as lets secretary this year. As always, it would be remiss of me not to single out a few people and so I must express particular thanks to Gareth for taking excellent care of the finances, I have said it before but just to echo how thorough and dedicated Gareth has been to the finances and record keeping over the past several years and thanks also to Brownen for her attention and care over the minute taking and for always being there to offer help with newsletters and other paperwork. As always, I must pass on my sincere thanks to Miss McAllister for the time she spends sharing our information across the various school platforms and for always being so polite with my many requests. Finally, on behalf of the Parent Council, I express our thanks to Mrs Thomson and the staff of ROMPS who continue to look after and help those most precious to us to learn and grow.

On a personal note, you all know this is the last meeting I will chair. I have enjoyed my time as chair and I am proud of what we have achieved together as a Parent Council. I wish ROMPS Parent Council and indeed ROMPS as a school, my very best in their journey forward and I look forward to continuing to be a small part of that.