

Lizzi Hodgkinson  
Chair of Alban City School PTA  
20 January 2022

# Alban City School PTA

## Chair's Report: January 2021 - January 2022

I ended my report last January by saying that it was hard to know what the year ahead would look like for the PTA, and indeed it was another strange year...

With children not able to attend school for the first couple of months, and, even when they *were* back, the ever-changing rules of what you could and couldn't do, it was another challenging year to navigate.

Again, I'm very proud of what we as a PTA achieved over the past 12 months. Instead of sitting back and waiting (*or hoping*) for normality to resume, we ploughed on to try and not only raise funds for the school but also provide the children and adults with some much-needed fun in these uncertain times. We had to be creative again, which obviously brought its challenges, but it was lovely to add some new events to our PTA calendar.

We dipped our toe into the world of Virtual Balloon Racing (raising over £600 in the process), and Julie's wonderful Easter Trail was another first, and so welcome at a time when what we were able to do was still so limited. With another virtual Quiz on offer, some truly fabulous crazy hair dos and a Nearly New and Lolly Sale on the hottest day of the year, we rounded off the summer term with some fabulous class tote bags (let's forget about the fact that they were meant to be tea towels!) and a successful Summer Raffle.

Come September we were excited to be able to hold an actual **in person** coffee morning, with our best turnout ever I believe, raising £170 for Macmillan. After launching another 100 Club, we were able to bring back (just in the nick of time) the much-loved Halloween Disco, which I think Mr Edwards may have been even more excited about than the children! After half-term we saw a flurry of activity with a totally sold-out Odyssey Takeover, creative Christmas cards, a Film Night for the younger years (where we were made to feel truly old on discovering that it was now impossible to play our much-loved DVDs on the school's equipment), a Christmas Jumper Day and our first ever Festive Baking and Craft Competition thanks to

Helen. Not forgetting our inaugural online Christmas Raffle, where we got to grips with a totally new way of doing things, sourced a bumper crop of prizes and raised a lovely chunk of money.

All of this activity enabled us to treat the school to lots of goodies: fans to use during the summer, spellcheckers, chimes, iPads, to name but a few. It is lovely to see all of our hard work having a tangible benefit for all of our children. And we were even able to help out families less fortunate than ourselves with a much-appreciated collection for the Salvation Army Toy Appeal. Another highlight of the year has been the introduction of the Book Wish List initiative, where, thanks to the money we raise through Easyfundraising, we've already been able to buy lots of books for the school.

I'm tired just talking about the past year, and I must admit I'm looking forward to a bit of a rest! Although it's been hard at times over these past two (crazy) years, I will genuinely miss being a part of the PTA Committee, along with Helen, Julie and Amy. With all the hours we devote to the cause, it makes such a difference to be surrounded by wonderful people. And, on the subject of wonderful people, Julie sitting next to me here has been beyond wonderful over the past two years and gone above and beyond her role as Communications Officer. Her flyers and newsletters are *always* a work of art, and all the extra things she does don't go unnoticed. As a very small sign of our appreciation, we've treated her to a bottle of the good stuff, in honour of the 'Fizz Fridays' which have become a bit of a tradition amongst us.

Finally, a big thank you to Mrs Stray and to everyone who has helped with our events and attended these Zoom meetings - I can't believe I have only been able to hold two face-to-face meetings in two years! And a special thanks to Mr Edwards for all the help he gives us, whether it be with setting up, reminding people or just generally being really lovely.

I wish all the best to the committee members, and the PTA as a whole. It's been a pretty nail-biting and worrying past week or so, but I am so pleased that it looks like we'll be able to continue the fantastic work the PTA does for our lovely school.

**Lizzi Hodgkinson**

**Chair of Alban City School PTA (January 2020 - January 2022)**