



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHAIR'S REPORT

Thursday 16th November 2023

Venue: School Hall

1. 2022/23 events

On behalf of all the staff and children, I would like to extend thanks to the committee who worked so hard throughout the year organising all of the wonderful events that were held. There has been a great mix of our usual, highly successful and enjoyable events, along with some new fundraisers. It is evident that the committee are working cohesively and passionately and, following a change to our constitution last year, that increasing to a larger committee was the right decision. I am also grateful for the time given by a number of parents and volunteers on an ad hoc basis. Much work is done behind the scenes, and this does not go unnoticed. Clearly the key function of the PTFA is to raise funds but to see just how much the children and wider community have enjoyed the events has been a joy.

Obviously 2022/23 was a hugely successful year for the school with our Ofsted inspection in the last week of the academic year. One of the areas of focus in an Ofsted inspection is 'personal development' and the following comments were made in the report:

"The provision for pupils' wider personal development is exceptional. All pupils participate in a range of well-designed activities and experiences. For example, pupils recently visited France and Belgium to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate. Opportunities for pupils to debate and discuss 'big questions' are part of regular philosophy sessions. This supports pupils to be confident and thoughtful speakers, who articulate their ideas and opinions clearly and are respectful of the views of others. Pupils' behaviour around the school and attitudes to their learning are exemplary. This is because they understand the well-established routines. Leaders have effective systems in place to support families to ensure their children attend school regularly and on time."

While the comments made here relate to the school's work, as is the focus of the inspection, I have no doubt that the activities organised by the PTFA for our children absolutely contribute to their personal development and their enjoyment of and commitment to our school.

2. Prior and recent expenditure

The Treasurer's report sets out the income/expenditure for the previous academic year, with a separate report of the expenditure thus far in the current academic year (2023/24). It is evident that the accounts are very healthy so the following points are pertinent:

The decision was previously made by senior leaders and the committee to build up some reserves with the intention of utilising funds to renovate/rejuvenate the area adjacent to the Studio Hall/MUGA. This was to be a large scale project, with an 'eco' area originally planned. The local authority released its Special Provision Capital

Funding, a scheme whereby schools can bid for funding for specific projects for the benefit of children with special educational needs. We had already accessed this funding and installed our Sensory Room and so last year, Mrs Duncan (Deputy Headteacher) and I began to audit our outdoor provision. This resulted in two applications for funding being made. Somewhat to our surprise, both were agreed. Our fantastic trim trail was installed over the summer holidays and our Nursery outdoor climbing frame, blocks and artificial grass was completed during term time just before October half term.



Trim trail – funding received from the borough – c.£56k



Nursery – funding received from the borough c.£12k

As a result, the funds currently sitting in the PTFA accounts are larger than that which were planned to be – however, this is a positive ‘problem’ to have!

It is also noteworthy that school leaders devoted their time and energy into ensuring that following our Ofsted inspection in April 2022, we were ready for our re-inspection. Now that this has been undertaken, we have started the academic year fully enthused to continue to develop the school further. As such, there is a further Treasurer’s report outlining the expenditure thus far, since September 2023.

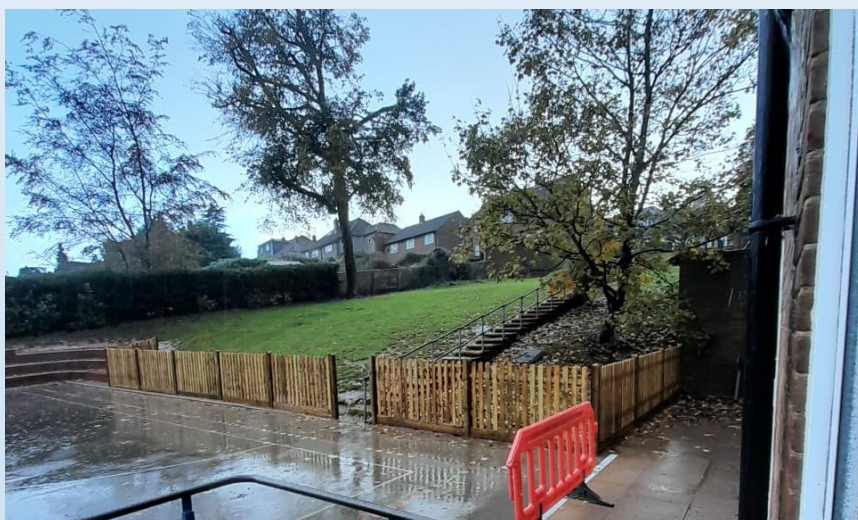
A key focus has been on our revised House System with a mural in this main hall:



Additionally, an engaging mural has been painted in KS2, reminding the children of their many attributes.



A key focus for us this year is the continued development of our playground. The PTFA have funded a new fence on the top playground (junior 'hare zone'):



BARROW HEDGES PTFA
Registered Charity No 1107675



3. Wish List

With a very healthy bank balance, we have devised the following list of proposed expenditure. The PTFA committee are meeting after the AGM to discuss these proposals further.

Outdoor playspace:

- Tarmac in front of the bike sheds on the top playground (by the netball court) – children’s play overflows to this grassy (muddy) area and so this will reduce mess and potential slipping.
- New wooden ‘houses’ on the infant playground – the children love these but there is only one very old one!
- Replacement of coloured panels around the wooden stairs at the back of the hall – these could be replaced with attractive outdoor posters and/or blackboards for drawing.
- Tarmac fairly small area on the infant playground in front of the double fire gates – another area which gets very muddy but where children tend to play.
- Courtyard – a sail or canopy to provide shade – this would mean that we could utilise this area more in the summer.
- Artificial grass where the small play structures are on the middle part of the playground (opposite year 3 and 4) – this would increase our play space and reduce mud.
- Planters and plants situated on the playground – helps with zoning and avoids it being a ‘concrete jungle’.
- Signage and outdoor clocks for the playground – some will give prompts for play and teach children about the world around them.
- Replacement door mats for some of our external doors.
- Even more playground equipment.

Computing curriculum:

- Set of x30 devices (e.g. Winbooks or similar) – our Chromebooks which are used by Years 1 to 4 are old and incompatible with our Windows devices used by Years 5 and 6. We need a set of new devices to be able to deliver our curriculum.

Other things for discussion:

- Area at front entrance – develop a more attractive ‘garden’ at main entrance – ensuring our school looks Outstanding is vital – birth rates are falling, and we need to ensure we maintain numbers on roll.
- Replace chain-link fencing at Harbury Road – safer for children and community.
- More signage – e.g. making Hedgerows more obvious.
- A few more kettles for staff use and for when hosting events. Some blinds need replacing.
- Carpets in Year 1 and Robin classrooms are very old and shabby – our younger children sit on the carpets daily!
- More murals – we need to paint the classroom names above each classroom door (internally).
- Old swimming pool changing rooms – need painting especially now the trim trail looks so smart.

With thanks to all members of the Barrow Hedges community for your support.

Louise Wood – Chair of PTFA / Headteacher