

Coverack School AGM 1st October 2021

Chair's Report

Welcome to our AGM for the year 2020/21, I think we can all be certain that this was the strangest year and for many the most challenging. A big thank you to everyone on the committee, our parents, grandparents, carers and in the wider community for their continued, invaluable support.

What an amazing achievement that we are here today having saved the school from the proposed KS2 closure and ensured its survival for at least another 2 years. Our small community strongly believes keeping our school open is vital for the future of Coverack. Established in 1876, it's our cornerstone.

Given the severe challenges of Covid, this meeting follows a slightly alternative line. We have been unable to hold any fundraising events or even meetings, so this is more an overview of where we are at and our aims for the new school year.

Despite the lack of fundraising opportunities, at Christmas our letter asking for donations on the Village website and in our newsletter was very helpful and we received one private donation of £235.00 which we are so thankful for, together with £90 in additional donations.

With thanks to Terry Thompson for lending us his fundraising pole, (that we placed just near the village shop) this has so far raised £146 in cash donations over the summer.

Many thanks to Helen McFarland for her help in applying for a Grant and our SOS campaign and for her support with the Lambeague Hall committee to very kindly donate half the raffle proceeds from their summer arts festival to the school. We are so grateful for the donation and hope very much to support the Hall in return.

As you are aware, our Save our School action group launched a Just giving, fundraising page online, many thanks to Helen and Nick Gilchrist for creating the text and images and this has so far raised a brilliant £1267.00. Please help spread the word about our page, www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/coverack-primary-school

We are incredibly grateful also for a donation of £1000 a year for 2 years From the Sanders Family at the Bay Hotel, to be spent on the children and their activities.

Many thanks to Robin and Coverack windsurfing school for giving the children a fantastic afternoon of water activities in the summer term. The children loved it and gained confidence in learning new skills.

Many thanks to Susan Englefield for her support and for the Coverack Life Facebook page which helped spread our SOS message and for Space 2000 and the Coverack Village website for doing the same.

We also would like to thank Coverack Space2000 for their continued, immeasurable support to the school and the PTFA, the village and to our community. In particular, to Joan Kearsley MBE for her tireless involvement, Peter Wood and all the committee. Their backing has ensured that we can create an After School Club and have already started two days a week and are recruiting to extend this provision.

Despite being unable to get together to raise money, the need for the PTFA's support is as vital as ever to ensure the children have a richer, broader school experience. The PTFA have in this year paid for Christmas books, leaver's hoodies, a Curriculum focused Viking Day and our annual sailing contribution. This term we look forward to seeing our donation of £300 towards the new school library corner, which will provide a cosy, nurturing space for children to enjoy books and for volunteers to come in and read with the children. We hope going forward to support the Forest School, after school clubs such as gardening club, day trips, swimming, sailing and art and drama workshops. We also thank all the people who have kindly offered to volunteer their time to enrich the curriculum on our new 'Drop down day' and beyond. A working group has been established with the school, the PTFA and Space to make sure that the best opportunities are created for the children and to extend our offer to prospective newcomers.

As a PTFA we would like to keep parents more updated with what the money is being spent on. Showing you where the money is being spent and how you are all making a difference. Details will be updated on the school newsletter and on the website.

Our PTFA Constitution allows us to raise money as a charity and therefore claim back VAT. To do this it requires the following in order to form our PTFA committee as a minimum:

- Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary.

We currently don't have a secretary, many thanks to Sue who held the role but has now stepped down. Would anyone like to step in? The role isn't as scary as it sounds, we would be grateful if you could take brief minutes from the meetings and type them up, so they are available for parents to read on the PTFA page of the website.

We have had a tumultuous year and the complete change in people on the PTFA has meant that we have had to close our old bank account, due to Covid, we have been unable to open a new Charity bank account as banks have not been processing these requests. On election of the new PTFA members, this will be immediately actioned so that we can benefit from the VAT claim back.

Finally, thank you again to all of you for supporting our school and for saving it. Let's get together to create some great events, have some fun and raise some money so that we can continue to make our children's primary school experience the best it can be.

Zoe Holmes, Co- chair