

AGM Notes from the reluctant Chair 2021-2021

Going into last years AGM I had a suspicion that for PaFoS to continue, I may have to take on a trustee role. After being a member for quite a few years, knowing the hard work previous trustees had put into PaFoS and the difference it makes to the SMB pupils, there was no way I was going to let PaFoS disappear – so I became Chair.

In all honesty I couldn't have picked a better year to be Chair and am thoroughly pleased I did. After 18 months of COVID chaos many volunteers and parents were still to find out what PaFoS does and how it works. With most of us learning new trustee roles within PaFoS and a great team I felt very supported.

Many thanks to Kirsty who stepped into her unexpected role as treasurer and has done a grand job keeping track of our accounts and balancing the ins and outs.

New Trustee Vice Chair Serisha has been learning how things are organised, as well as bringing along some great new ideas and hands on support.

Glynn Spence stepped in as Grant Secretary, and as a man of many words was perfectly suited to the role, securing some fantastic amounts of funding for the school. This year he got PaFoS off to a flying start, by donating his funds raised from running the marathon and keeping the kids racing in circles to raise even more, thank you.

I have to say thank goodness Emma remained secretary, without whom we would have descended into chaos. She has emailed, written agendas and minuted meetings but as always has done soooooo much more than her role requires – advising, organising, supporting, stressing and generally once again going above and beyond to keep PaFoS and its members on track.

Emma and I have been mindful that this is our last year at SMB and as much as possible have tried to pass on information and involve everyone in PaFoS with all aspects of the charity and its events. There has been a big effort to raise PaFoS profile and engage with as many parents as possible, through regular facebook and newsletter posts. Thanks to those parents who agreed to take on the new roles of class reps it has meant we have a link to each year group. The addition of a PaFoS whatsapp group means that PaFoS are able to feel connected as a team in-between meetings.

Serisha organised the purchase of a card machine for use at events, it is working and has been received well. As news filters through the parents card payments are available it is being used more and more.

Christmas still saw us have some covid restrictions in place but we worked with these the best we could and held step into Christmas. With the support of SMB and its staff, we were able to create week of events capturing the Christmas spirit for the pupils, as well as making a good amount of donations.

The Mothers Day, Father's Day and the book sales were all a great success, very much supported and appreciated by pupils with a big thanks to Sam and Serisha for their time, excellent organisation and donations.

Despite the panic before the Summer Fair, on the day we were bowled over by the amount of volunteers who showed up, to help set up and run stalls. It was great to see so many new faces as well as old ones willing to help and we were very grateful. Everyone seemed keen to work together and to be able mix as a whole school community again. It was a success and as far as I can tell very much enjoyed by all.

Last but by no means least a big thank you to all the SMB school staff and of course Mrs T. Throughout the year you have all worked around and helped with the events that PaFoS organise - on top of your usual workload and it is very much appreciated. Without your co-operation and support we couldn't function as your PTA.