

Report of the Chairperson.

I think it is fair to say that 2019/2020 has been a very challenging year for Pre-School. The beginning of the academic year was very normal, with our wonderful Staff welcoming both new and existing Children. Little did anyone realise what was round the corner, both economically and globally.

The last few years have seen a steady decline in numbers of children attending both PreSchool, Breakfast Club and After School Club and with little fund raising undertaken in the previous 18 months, the financial implications were very bleak, meaning a difficult position was inherited by the Committee elected at the 2019 AGM.

In early 2020, the financial situation had escalated to a point where closure was under serious consideration, and towards the end of Term 4, it seemed this was the only option, unless some money could be raised. Fortunately people rallied round and following the setting up of a 'Just Giving' Page plus some anonymous donations, a sum just short of £10k was raised, and we were fortunate to be able to claim Gift Aid from our anonymous donors.

However, PS was not out of the woods, and then came Covid 19. I think it is fair to say that we are one of the few Organisations that benefitted from COVID, as it gave us the breathing space to re-group, form a new Committee and furlough the Staff, who also agreed to take a 10% wage cut, if and when we did reopen. We also received a payment holiday on our rent from the Community Trust, a payment holiday on our rates and grants from the Parish Council and the County Council.

To allow us to utilise the skills of the new Committee Members, at our first Committee Meeting we set up 4 Sub- Committees – an Executive SC to allow the Chair, Secretary/Administrator and the PS Manager to make day to day decisions, a Finance SC comprising of the Treasurer and Administrator to keep a tight rein on the finances, a Governance SC comprising of Lizzie, Dave and Helena to ensure we are legally compliant with the Charities Commission, HMRC and Ofsted, and a Fund Raising SC comprising of Hannah, Dave and other coop-tees including Staff and Parents.

The Governance SC immediately set out to ensure that we informed the Charity Commission that the 4 new Trustees were to be Simon Hopkins, Andrew Tacon, Zena Rozee and Lizzie Wharton. They also ensured all new committee members applied for their DBS Certificates and once these were issued, we informed Ofsted of the changes to the Committee to ensure all necessary legal obligations were up to date.

Through April, May and June, our Manager and Administrator, who were not furloughed, managed to keep things ticking over, with Lizzie becoming our resident Zoom Expert to help keep in touch with our Children and Parents, with Zena keeping a tight rein on the purse strings and leaving no stone unturned trying to hustle for Grants and any other streams of money we could pursue.

Eventually we were able to partially open in Term 6 operating in 2 Bubbles with just 4 Members of Staff on 4 days of the week, with limited resources and soft furnishings put away, which I know the Staff found very odd.

As things began to return to normal, a small group of the new Committee and Staff undertook the enormous task of redecorating and refurbishing during July and August to ensure that when we came back at the beginning of the new Academic Year in September, Pre School would be a place where both Staff and Children could thrive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee who took over in September 2019 for agreeing to stand aside in April to allow the incumbent Committee to take on the task of keeping this wonderful setting open.

The new Committee deserve our sincere thanks for stepping up to the plate to take on a very difficult situation and to be wholly committed to ensuring its survival. So my thanks to Andrew Tacon (Treasurer); Zena Rozee (Secretary); Dave Baldwin; Helena Doucas; Hannah Willans & Lizzie Wharton.

Our wonderful Staff, also deserve our heartfelt thanks for agreeing to be furloughed and take a wage cut as opposed to seeing PS close and be made redundant. So a huge round of virtual applause for Lizzie Wharton, Louise John, Pam Andrews, Sandra Ward, Hannah Willans, Sarah Stone, Zena Rozee and Jade Rivett.

Finally, we are open, but numbers are currently lower than we would like, making fund raising in the 'new normal' tricky but very important. However we have launched our 100 Club, which is now full & will be drawn 6 times a year and we had a very successful day at the Village Garage Sale on 20th September. To date we will have raised approx £600 following these 2 events, but we are not out of the woods and need to maintain our focus and enthusiasm for fund raising. However I am convinced we are going to come out the other side stronger, due to the love and support shown to PS over the last 6 months by our wonderful local community.

Simon Hopkins
Chairperson
September 2020

Treasurer
Report

September 2020

"As the Chairman has already reported 2019/20 was another difficult year financially for the charity with revenues down 16% year on year. While we managed to reduce costs to more than match this decline, we still finished the year reporting a loss of £6,493 which reduced our reserves to under £12,000.

Faced with the prospect of further losses in the current year, entirely depleting our reserves, actions were taken to cut costs and attempt to increase pupil numbers for the new school

year thereby increasing revenues. This was combined with a successful fundraising campaign which raised over £11,000 and restored the charity's reserves.

Pupil numbers and therefore revenues are still not quite where we'd like them to be, but we are budgeting to at least break-even in the current financial year."