**Chairperson’s Report
MPSA AGM**9 October 2020

Hi! I’m Helena Renshaw and I was chair of the MPSA committee for the last school year. I was approached to take on the role following a year of being a keen newbie after my son started in Reception. And, in all honesty, I felt pretty out of my depth taking the role on. My primary goal was not to break it - it was a really successful PTA and I didn’t want to ruin in it. Following that, I wanted to make friends, I wanted to feel more involved in the school community, I wanted to be involved in organising activities that the children enjoyed and I wanted to help raise funds for the school. So, despite the craziness of the last school year - for me, I feel I achieved all of those things - it was a success!

Saying I achieved all of those things isn’t really accurate - it should definitely be a ‘we’ - it was definitely a combined effort. I was part of a brilliant committee who commit so much time, effort and expertise to the school and who most definitely helped me find my feet and not break it! *(Thank you to Bridget, Nicole, Daniela, Cathryn and our departing Vice Chairperson, Kayla)* But, on the top of that, so many parents, grandparents and carers gave their time to help support the activities that we organised - and we had incredible support from the staff at the school as well. Definitely an example of great teamwork!

We held many events last year: film nights and discos and a sports relief event but a couple of things really stand out.

A Christmas Fair is quite an undertaking - from the superbly efficient ‘elves’, who came in to wrap gifts for the children last minute, to the amazing number of volunteers (staff as well as parents/grandparents/carers - we had so many we could double up on each stall to give people a chance to enjoy the fair as well as volunteer), to the wonderful response when we asked for contributions from everyone (including staff) for the bolas and raffle and food stall - I was genuinely blown away by so many people pitching in to ensure it was a success for everyone.

The other thing that springs to mind is that, towards the end of last school year we were acutely aware that our Year 6 children were leaving without the normal fanfare and fun that they would have hoped for. Bridget and her husband, Simon, had the idea of producing a yearbook. We proposed it to Mr Cotterill 4 weeks before the end of term. With the amazing efforts of Krystyna and Martin, who collated all information and sorted the beautiful layout, the staff at the school who sourced all the information (all coordinated by Mr Cotterill - with special mention to Mrs Devenport for ensuring that we had all the information we needed) and Cathryn who sourced all the pictures of the children from Facebook and chased anyone she could to get the information needed - we managed to produce a yearbook we were incredibly proud of and that the Year 6 children (and their parents) loved - completed and printed with a week to spare! A true team effort that hopefully made a strange end to their time at primary school a little better.

Although not the primary objective of the events we, as an MPSA, run, we also raised a good amount of money for the school last year (Nicole will provide the details in her Treasurer’s Report) and that allowed us to financially contribute to the school and make it an even more fabulous place for our children to go. Over the 2019/2020 school year, we funded a welcome sign for the nursery and an entrance way for The Spinney. We had also discussed other initiatives we could support (contributing to transport for residentials, maths books and Spheros to allow the children to practice coding) but then lockdown happened and, as you might expect, they were no longer a priority. We did manage to plan some competitions over the lockdown period and funded the prizes we were able to award. And, as mentioned previously, we were able to fund, as well as organise, the Yearbooks for the Year 6 children, along with an outside leavers disco.

So...I know that this coming year is going to be a little strange too and I appreciate it will take time to return to normality - but I am sure that the MPSA will work with the school to organise some lovely events for the children, which will enrich their school experience. We have already been thinking about what we could do, with the possibilities of a Christmas raffle, a Zoom quiz for adult friends of the school, competitions for the children and supporting a Year Book for our current Year 6 class. I also know that, based on feedback from parents, there is a desire to be raising money for a specific target so that people can really see where their money is going. We have already pledged £4,500 to the Outside Play and Learning (OPAL) project that is currently in the planning stages and we intend to hold events over the course of this coming year to raise additional monies for that venture.

All that remains for me to say is that I have very much enjoyed being part of the MPSA and the committee so far and look forward to being involved in whatever capacity they’ll have me for another year.