

The PTA had another successful year. The following is a summary of the highlights.

### Playground project

Redevelopment of school grounds has been the PTA's major focus again this year. In the last school year, we held a lengthy consultation with parents, staff and pupils who wanted a greener, more exciting outside space with better areas for ball sports and adventure play for the juniors. In the summer holidays, 2009 the first phase was completed – installation of a multi-use games area in the junior playground, a new imaginative play area in the infant playground and purchase of new planters. The school established a gardening club, which made a huge improvement to all the outside spaces.

The second phase was successfully completed during the Easter break. Now, junior pupils can enjoy the new Adventure Trail, meaning the junior playground works as a series of 'zones', for quieter play, adventurous play and ball sports. Overall, the PTA contributed £29k over the course of the two years towards this, just under half the total amount, using funds raised over several years. We are extremely grateful to those who have raised funds over the years to allow the development to take place, and hope we did justice to their vision. The school contributed the remainder from its capital budget. We see this project as a very good example of the PTA and school working in partnership for the benefit of the pupils.

### Fundraising to enrich the curriculum

The PTA had a very successful year of fundraising. The Christmas fair took place on a Saturday again encouraging more visitors and a wider range of parents and carers. The two main fund raising events were the Christmas Fair (£3,500) and the school Summer Fair (£5,000) with the theme of 'Green and Healthy'. Events such as bake sales, two children's discos and other events were also very popular and raised a significant amount over the year. We also had successful stalls at the Richmond and Kew fairs, selling hot dogs and other treats. We are delighted that PTA funds supported a wide range of activities including another successful Book week, Art week, and extra curricular trips. While we contributed slightly less than in previous years, due to the focus on the playground redevelopment, we still contributed around £2k to activities which enriched children's learning.

## Darell Parent Teacher Association annual review 2009-2010

### Treasurer's report

Over the course of the year, we have raised around £12k, an impressive total.

There was around £27k in the PTA account at the start of the year, an amount accumulated over several years, which was used to fund the playground redevelopment. With the major contribution we made to the playground development and all the other school activities we have supported, we now have around £4k left.

### Open to all

PTA agendas are publicised in the school newsletter in advance of meetings, minutes are updated regularly on the website, and the PTA email address is in operation. This year we experimented with two daytime PTA meetings, with some success, organised around the Christmas and Summer Fair. We also had a successful themed meeting on the School Travel Plan. Some meetings, though, were smaller than we would have liked and we hope the new committee will continue to do all they can to make meetings as relevant as possible, and attract a wide range of parents and carers.

We estimate that over 150 parents/carers and school staff actively helped on a stall or at an event and that over 300 participated at least once in some way during the year. This is really important for sustaining the strong sense of community spirit and cohesion for which Darell is well-known.

### Moving on

The PTA Executive are moving on and we look forward to a new team in place. We thank you all for supporting the PTA and the school again this year and look forward to supporting more exciting events such as Maths week, Book week and Science week throughout the year.

Dan Drake, Fern Roberts & Ray Ferris on behalf of Darell PTA, July 2010