

**RUSSELL LOWER SCHOOL**

**PTA Head teacher’s Report – November 2020**

I would like to start by thanking everyone for your fantastic support under such difficult circumstances! I really do appreciate how hard it is to find the time to meet ordinarily, but to organise fund-raising when you cannot even meet properly must be almost impossible. Thank you for your ‘can do’ attitude which has meant so much has still been able to happen.

The autumn dress up day at the end of term was a real success, not only financially, but also as a really lovely ‘event’ which lifted everyone’s spirits at the end of the first half term. Thank you for organising this, and for the sweet treats for everyone.

Also, a huge thank you for the donation of £1000 which we spent on more AR and phonics books. The PTA continue to be fantastic with their support of our ‘projects’, not only providing the funds, but also the labour on many occasions to get the books covered. Thank you!

As we look forward to Christmas, we can see how busy you have all been preparing the Birley Gift Give Away next week – that will really get Christmas started! – and the virtual Christmas raffle hot on its heels. Thank you again for all your hard work. I know there have been many logistical and practical challenges to overcome and you have faced them with tenacity and determination.

A lovely surprise addition was the Christmas Tree from Woburn Sands Emporium! Thank you so much for spotting this opportunity and for getting in so many nominations that we won a tree! Thank you for arranging for volunteers to come in and decorate the tree too. It will add a touch of Christmas Magic to Nathan’s garden. Amazing! I will be sure to mention all of these in the December Newsletter so parents, who may remain unaware, know exactly how much hard work the PTA has been doing this term.

Finally, I have to say a huge well done for achieving something that no PTA has achieved in my lifetime here, a new shed! That is no mean feat in usual times – let alone during a global pandemic! Well done to all of you.

I know it is going to be very busy over the next few weeks, so a huge thank you in advance!

**Nicki Walker**

**Headteacher**