

**RUSSELL LOWER SCHOOL**

**PTA Head teacher’s Report – April 2021**

We were all SO touched at the end of last term to receive the wonderful Krispy Kreme Dohnuts and 'Thank you' balloon in school. As I said at the time via email, we know that you all have enough to do, and that you already do so much for us as a school already! I just wanted to make an additional mention of this tonight as it was such a kind gesture which was enormously gratefully received.

Thank you also for continuing to support the Russell families and children. This time, with fun and entertainment over the Easter holidays.

I know that The Virtual Family Games Show went down very well (as did the cocktails!) and that our governor was really impressed with everything that he experienced on the evening. The feedback from parents have been extremely positive and very grateful.

I also know that the Scavenger Hunt went down equally well. I know people were impressed by the sheer amount of time they were ‘out and about’ in Ampthill and the fun they had solving the clues.

Even after these two highly successful events, you have gone on to inspire the children and parents with another new (and Covid safe) idea – the sustainability day and the sunflower growing competition. We have already begun planning the day in school and have been really amazed at the sheer numbers of children getting involved (and paying for!) the sunflower seeds. I can imagine sunflowers growing tall all over Ampthill – and I know the competition will be fierce! The idea of this competition running annually, with a trophy is also a really wonderful plan. The Design an Egg Competition has become a true Russell tradition and I can see this doing exactly the same.

I also had a telephone call with Grace recently, where we discussed more funding ideas as I know the PTA are keen to ‘show’ parents where their donations ‘go’. Grace and I discussed the possibility of:

* 10 Chromebooks (which would add to the 21 we had during remote teaching to make a class set to use in school for Computing lessons) £2400
* A Pirate Ship or large piece of play equipment (to replace the condemned piece) for the FS playground £3000
* Outdoor gym equipment to add to the KS2 area £2350
* Additional AR and Phonics books – we now have over 430 children and even have a full 90 + a waiting list for September – we need even more! £1000
* Contribution to a ‘real’ theatre visit £2000
* Nathan’s Garden ‘spruce’ items – approximately £200

I know the PTA plan to send out a quarterly newsletter and feel that some of these items would demonstrate impact across the whole age range of the school and in a range of subject areas.

Thank you to everyone who continues to work so hard on the PTA for the children’s benefit. I know that 430+ flower pots/diaries/seed and bags take one heck of a long time to put together! THANK YOU!

**Nicki Walker**

**Headteacher**