

Lindow Primary PTA

Chair's Annual Speech

Good evening everyone.

What a year it's been!

Looking back, it's hard to believe just how much we've managed to fit in. It's been a crazy busy year for the PTA, with lots of events, lots of fundraising and, most importantly, lots of opportunities for the Lindow children and families to come together.

We've had some brilliant events this year — some old favourites and some new ideas — and it's been lovely to see so many of you getting involved.

Our first event of the year was the **Spooky Disco**, which was a great event and really well attended. A huge thank you to Kim and Oli, who took the reins on this one and did a fantastic job. We just need to remember one thing for next year... **not to use the smoke machine!**

Our **Bonfire Night stall** was another great evening, with lots of money raised and lots of helpers getting stuck in. The sweet tombola is always a mega hit, and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying the evening while helping us raise money for the PTA.

Oli very kindly came in to run our **Chocolate Making Workshop**. It wasn't hugely attended, but those who came really enjoyed it and we all agreed that it was a lovely chance to get together and meet some of our new Reception parents. Sometimes the smaller events are just as worthwhile, and this was a really nice evening.

Then came our **Christmas Fair**, which was another great event. We went back to holding it on a Sunday afternoon in the hall, which worked really well.

We had an authentic Santa's grotto, beautifully set up by Mrs Jackson and Sam Roberts, and food was served throughout the afternoon. A huge thank you to our chef at the time, who prepared all the turkey for our hot barmes!

We did have a little food left over, as it was difficult to estimate exactly how much we would need, but it was another lovely afternoon and a great way to start the Christmas season.

Our **Christmas cards and calendars** are two lovely Lindow traditions. We had a student come in to take the photographs of the children, so thank you to her for giving up her time. The Christmas cards were designed at home with parents and children.

Neither of these are huge money-makers, but they are lovely traditions and I know they are always enjoyed by our families.

Movie Night was another really well-attended event. This year we decided to feed the children, which I think went down very well with both the children and the parents. It was lovely seeing them all enjoying an evening with their friends — and hopefully the parents enjoyed a slightly quieter evening too!

We also had our **doughnut sale and pre-loved uniform sale**. The doughnuts were snapped up in no time, and we made a decent amount from the uniform sales too. It's another example of how the smaller things really do add up.

Then came **The Big Lindow Party**, which was the second year of this event.

Ticket sales were a little disappointing this year, which was a shame because it really is a brilliant night. We've decided to run the event a week earlier this year so that we don't clash with the Wilmslow 10K and Marathon, and hopefully that will help.

This year we added **Bongo's Bingo**, which was great fun and went down really well.

A huge thank you to **Roxy for DJing** and keeping the party going throughout the night, and to the **whole party team** for all their hard work in making the event such a great night. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes to make an event like this happen, and we really do appreciate everything you do.

The raffle and auction also had some amazing prizes, so a huge thank you to everyone who donated. A special mention has to go to Jane Turnbull, who donated — and then actually won — the meal for six at Gordon Ramsay's restaurant!

The auction really does make a big difference to the final amount raised, so we'll need to get our thinking caps on again this year and see what fantastic prizes we can come up with.

Book & Bake was a bit of a last-minute idea, but a huge thank you to Miss Oakes for driving it.

We invited parents and grandparents into school to read with the children over three consecutive afternoons. Each year group was also asked to bring baked or bought cakes for us to sell.

We also took the opportunity to share our plans for the new library renovation with everyone.

They were three lovely afternoons, and it was fantastic to see the children enjoying reading with their families in school.

Our **Mother's Day and Father's Day shops** are another much-loved Lindow tradition.

The children absolutely love choosing their presents, and I'm sure you'll all agree there's something very special about receiving a little gift that your child has chosen especially for you.

Our **Spring Social** was a new event for us this year.

We held an Easter egg hunt around the school grounds straight after school on the last day before Easter. Thankfully, the sun was shining and the children absolutely loved it.

It was a lovely little way to finish the Easter term, and definitely one we'd like to do again.

This year we decided to hold the **Summer Fair** a little earlier, hoping that we might get better weather.

Unfortunately, it didn't quite go to plan! The forecast hadn't looked particularly promising all week, but we decided to bite the bullet and go for it.

Thankfully, we were lucky and it was only right at the end of the fair that the rain finally came down.

I do think that if the weather had been better, we may have kept people around for longer and I'm sure the bar sales would have been higher too — but hey ho!

It was still a brilliant fair, with lots going on, and it was lovely to see everyone having such a great time.

A special thank you to **Andy Hume for organising our Golf Day**. It was another fantastic day and raised a great amount for the PTA.

The only problem was that it clashed with Miss Pengally's Father's Day afternoon. We'll need to plan a little better next year and make sure there are no clashes, as I know a few dads couldn't make both.

Alongside our main events, we've also had lots of smaller fundraising opportunities throughout the year.

The **Carol Concert, Sports Day and Year 6 Production** have all meant drink and tuck shops, along with the odd ice lolly sale!

These might seem like little things, but they all add to the overall total — and they're also a great excuse to have a chat, catch up and enjoy being part of school life.

All of this fundraising has had one big goal behind it this year: **the renovation of our school library**.

It's been a crazy busy year, but we've loved having something so exciting to work towards. The library is something that everyone at Lindow can enjoy, and it feels

really special knowing that the money raised through all these events will help create a space that our children can enjoy for years to come.

The Treasurer will give a full breakdown of our finances and fundraising figures in the Treasurer's Report, but I think it's important to recognise that every event, volunteer and donation has contributed to what we have achieved this year.

There are so many people I want to thank, because none of these events happen by themselves.

A huge thank you to **Paolina at Tesco**, who is always so generous and willing to help with our events, and to **Waitrose Wilmslow** for all of their contributions throughout the year.

A very special thank you also goes to **David Kendrick**, who generously donated the sponsorship money he raised through running his marathon to the PTA. It was such a generous gesture and made a real difference to our fundraising for the library.

And, of course, a massive thank you to the **whole PTA, our Lindow families, teachers and school staff**.

Thank you to everyone who has given up their time, baked a cake, donated a prize, helped set up or clear away, volunteered at an event, bought a raffle ticket, bought something from a stall — or simply turned up and joined in.

I know that for many of us, PTA events are just one more thing to fit into an already busy week, so I really do appreciate every bit of time and effort that people give.

It's been busy, occasionally chaotic, and there have definitely been moments where we've wondered what we've taken on — but it has also been great fun.

Most importantly, we've created some lovely memories for the children and raised money towards something that will benefit the whole school.

I'm really proud of what we've achieved together this year, and I'm very grateful to everyone who has been part of it.

Thank you — and here's to another fantastic year for Lindow!