

**RUSSELL LOWER SCHOOL**

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

It has been really lovely to see the PTA and school ‘dove tail’ together in providing opportunities for children in terms of ‘extended learning’ and experiences recently. The Sustainability activities have been a really great example of this.

As we discussed last meeting, the sunflower competition was so popular, and we used Sustainability Day as a chance for children to update their classes and teachers on how theirs were doing. We also held 3 linked assemblies over 3 weeks to introduce and embed the school’s new Eco code and discuss sustainability issues and World Earth Day. Along with other learning in class, all these events really worked well to get children thinking about their environment and what they can do to support a sustainable one.

To ensure we didn’t bubble mix, we had a few children come out to the garden for each class to plant their tomato plants. These were watered in the garden over half term by Mr Clarke, and then moved to the children’s classrooms this week. I shared photos of the planting process in our Zoom assembly on Monday. During a Zoom Redborne School Partnership meeting yesterday, I had a tap on my office window and Edward insisted (through my window in front of 18 Headteachers and Chairs of Governors!) that I MUST come and see their tomato plant as it now had TWO tomatoes on it – I loved that, and it made everyone in our (quite ‘heavy-going’) Zoom meeting smile! The amazement on his face was priceless – thank you to everyone in the PTA who made that face possible!

The litter pick on Saturday will also be fantastic as an opportunity to get out into the community and make an impact beyond the school gates. It is brilliant to work with other organisations too – ACCG is a great link to have made and one we hope to sustain. I hope it is well supported as I know the children are very keen! I will certainly be there too. Let’s hope the fine weather is due to continue.

As we look forward to the rest of this half term, it is still incredibly hard to plan any events. CBC have warned us to be cautious and always have a ‘plan b’ option if restrictions are not lifted, or if guidance in schools has to remain more stringent. This is very frustrating, but it is all we have for now. We continue to plan for a ‘bubble’ year 4 leavers’ party and I hear there is now a parent group beginning to arrange this – fab! Thank you to the PTA for funding this, and the now legendary Leavers’ Hoodie!

Since last meeting, I have spoken to Mrs Appleby and we have begun allocating your very generously pledged funds. We are very excited about the new pieces of gym equipment and astroturf coming at the end of June/mid-July respectively. We are also already busy buying more phonics and AR books, Chromebooks and researching pirate ships (we are still keen to know if the local company that was mentioned at the last meeting can do something at a reasonable cost? If anyone knows, or has contact details, please let one of us know)

Once again, considering there has only been a half term and a few weeks since the last meeting, it is incredible to reflect on the impact of all the PTAs hard work – thank you SO much again!

**Nicki Walker**

**Headteacher**