

**RUSSELL LOWER SCHOOL**

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

The end of last academic year was the strangest and most challenging ever! As you know, we didn’t even have many of our children here for the best part of 6 months! The events that we would usually have enjoyed together: such as Sports Day, Leavers’ Assemblies, Summer Fayre, Productions and Parties simply didn’t happen. I don’t think any of us really knew where we were in the year!

Some things did happen, in the only way they were allowed. For example, being able to get every class back for some sort of transition event. Thank you funding the Year 4 Leavers’ Hoodies – they were so popular – and SO soft! Almost every child commented on them as they immediately put them on. It was very strange having a ‘leavers’ assembly’ with no parents, on the field with only one day to say goodbye. We had hoped that by now restrictions would have eased and a party might be possible to plan. Sadly again, that simply isn’t the case yet.

Moving to this new term and school year, who knows what will happen! As you know, we have had the most challenging of starts of all the local schools with a positive Covid-19 test following the summer holidays, not to mention an almighty error from Bedford Hospital! What we do know is that things will certainly not be ‘normal’ for some considerable time to come and we will have to plan to do things differently.

One thing that is abundantly clear is that school is going to find things hard financially, due to additional costs (such as staffing and cleaning) and lack of income (closing Aviary Club from March, limited numbers now). We know that we will appreciate the work of the PTA even more than ever in the coming year.

For example, the £1000 pledge for books is being added to almost £600 of summer gifts donations from parents to buy Accelerated Reader books (Y2 +) and Phonics books (FS +)to replenish the desperate stock situation following a hasty lockdown. We are extremely grateful – thank you!

Thank you so much again for all your endless fundraising ideas and hard work. Everyone at the school really does appreciate it. As I say, now more than ever.

**Nicki Walker**

**Headteacher**