

## **Balshaw's Association PTA - AGM – Wednesday 3rd October 2019**

### **Chairman's Report**

Another 12 months have absolutely flown by once again and for the PTA, it's been another very successful year. We kicked off in September with the first of 4 quiz nights and I would like to thank our fabulous Quiz Master Keith, for all the hard work he puts in to making these popular evenings so successful.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December, we were honored to be joined by the Bishop of Blackburn who opened our very first 'Winter Wonderland' – a new event to celebrate the beginning of Advent. There was an array of activities including an 'ice' rink, curling, Santa's Grotto, craft stalls, a smoothie bike machine, cake stalls, a food hall, a donkey pretending to be a reindeer, carol singers, Christmas lights and much, much more. I have to say it was quite an experience running around with an elf hat on my head with elf ears and a bell jingling everywhere I went! Although it was a long day for all those who helped to make it happen, it turned out to be such a fantastic event that we hope to replicate it for many more years to come.

The Easter Bingo was a brilliant night of entertainment for all the family and so popular, that at one point we didn't think we'd be able to fit any more tables in the hall!

Our main event on the calendar was the Spring Fair / Family Fun Day and thankfully, the weather was kind to us once again. This event has become so much more than just a fund raising opportunity. The PTA remains focused on building strong relationships between home, school and the local community and the Family Fun Day really does bring everyone together.

The event was opened by the Mayor & Mayoress along with a very special 'celebrity', Lightning McQueen. Lightning came along to represent our chosen charity, Derian House Children's Hospice and accept a donation from the PTA of £1,000 on their behalf.

It was a fantastic year from a fund raising point of view and as well as being able to support such a worthwhile charity, we were also able to help purchase additional resources to support the education of our students at Balshaw's. We were delighted to approve bids from a variety of departments including;

- a new PA system for the Hall
- new sports kits for the football, rugby, basketball & netball teams
- funding for the science club &
- equipment for the music department

The committee have continued to be very supportive of school events by helping out with refreshments or promoting The PTA at Open Evenings, coffee and cake and Parents Evenings.

I'd like to thank everyone involved, including the parents, teachers, friends and of course the students for supporting our efforts by either donating prizes, getting involved in the organization of the events or just coming along and having fun.

There are 21 of us on the PTA committee now and it's fantastic to see it continuing to go from strength to strength. I'd like to thank you all for your continued hard work, support and dedication to making all this happen.

Thank you for giving your personal time and for all your enthusiasm and dedication to the PTA . Without you, it just wouldn't be possible.