



PTA
FRIENDS OF RIVERBRIDGE

Riverbridge PTA (Parent Teacher Association), Riverbridge Primary School: Park Avenue, Staines. TW18 2EF

Registered Charity No: 1166481

Chair's Report 2022-2023

As we entered in another school year, in 2022, on the back of a strange 2-3 years, we did not know what to expect. Economic hardships were hitting us all. What would this mean for our School and our PTA? What would the 'new norm' be like?

Planning the year's events, we started our busy Autumn term with our now famous Welcome Back Party. The event sold out in a record number of days and was well received with all having lots of fun! We reflected on what this event means to us – bringing our Riverbridge community together, as one big diverse community that we are. The Welcome back party is a celebration of all the values that Riverbridge stands for. Following this, our partnership with Matthew Arnold School saw us return for another year of Christmas Pantomime. We finished off the year with our discos before the Christmas break. The following year (2023), saw the return of our hot dog nights, our popular Balti Bingo – a fusion of Bingo and a curry night, raffles, sponsored scoot, a number of other pop-up events and finally our summer party. It is safe to say the year ended on a positive note.

We touched upon, economic hardships earlier and I feel it only right, to highlight some of the background work that happens, that sometimes gets missed amongst the glitz of our events. A special mention to our members who have tirelessly provided help for the sensory garden (our outdoor space in PAB), the used school uniform programme – where we are helping to upcycle well-loved uniform. Despite global price rises, we worked hard to not pass on costs to our families. Everyone has their own financial struggles, we wanted to put on a range of inclusive events for all our families to come to, forget their worries and have a good time. A big thank you to all who give their time selflessly to the PTA and our corporate sponsors for their generous donations, support and raffle prizes.

We congratulate all members of the PTA – parents, staff, carers and volunteers alike for ensuring another successful PTA year. We have done immensely well, raising over £15,700 blowing away our £12,000 target. Some of these funds have already been put to good use with outdoor activities, playground markings, funding trips and residentials as well as going towards our new outdoor space. Our treasurers will expand on this in their report.

So, here we are, entering a new School year, in 2023-4, with another fun, filled, action packed year. Our children another year grown. We welcome back our current families and extend a warm welcome to our new joiners. As a PTA, our core purpose is to put on fundraising events to raise money for various school projects. We work in partnership and unity with our wonderful School, the staff and the school office. I think it only fair to thank Mrs Williams and



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the office personnel who deal with my countless emails asking for printing to be done and always saying 'yes,' with their infectious smiles and can-do attitude. It is appreciated.

On that note, I feel this is also a good time to reflect on our personal journey through Riverbridge. We joined, just like many of you, nervous parents putting their first born into Primary School. What would it be like? Would our child be happy? We did not know what to expect. Tajinder and I, were blown away by Mr Grimwood's charisma, his calm manner, confidence in his school and ability to understand us as parents. So, for those parents concerned, do not be, Riverbridge is truly a wonderful and enriching environment for any child to thrive. Our PTA would not be the same without Mr Grimwood's support.

We would like to think we have added our own special touch to the PTA from when we took over 4 years ago. Tajinder and I had always planned to step down as Co-Chairs this year, not because we ran out of energy or passion for our school and the PTA, but to succession plan and ensure the PTA goes from strength to strength. However, life had other plans, as of tomorrow, we will no longer be the 'P' part of the PTA. Nonetheless, this is not about us, the PTA is much more than any individual, it is, in a way, the backbone of the Riverbridge School Community.

A lot of planning, dedication, hard work and love goes into the events we plan. At times it may seem a lot of work, but I remind everyone this is OUR PTA, OUR SCHOOL, OUR COMMUNITY and to invoke a change, you must be the change, so please do join in the upcoming year's events.

It has been an absolute honour for us to be a part of this journey with you all, our friends. We will always be there when and if needed. Thank you for letting us be a part of the Riverbridge PTA family.

For the last time, as Co-Chairs,

Yours faithfully,

Gurcharan & Tajinder

Dr. Gurcharan Singh Salotera & Mrs Tajinder Kaur Salotera

Co-Chairs

Riverbridge PTA



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