**Chairperson’s Report
MPSA AGM**16 November 2021

The first thing I would like to say is ‘thank you’! Thank you to the children who attend Manor Park and are so enthusiastic about the activities and events we organise! Thank you to the parents, grandparents and carers for continuing to support those activities and the MPSA during a particularly trying time! Thank you to the staff at Manor Park for working with us, supporting us and promoting us when it’s been such a difficult period for them to navigate as well! And thank you to the MPSA and the committee for their hard work, support, creativity and dedication over what was a very challenging year. Not only did we keep going but having to think of ways to allow events to happen during a pandemic and associated lockdowns resulted in some brilliant activities that we might never have thought of during non-COVID times. Although it’s been hard, I think it has been a really successful year and I’m very proud of what we have achieved. Nicole will provide the details of how much we raised and the specifics of what we funded in her report shortly.

At the start of last school year we committed £4,500 to the Outside Play and Learning (OPAL) programme, with the plan that our fundraising over the course of the year would primarily be for OPAL. We also funded presents from Santa for all children, contributed to the nursery refurbishment, contributed the medals to be awarded at sports day, as well as coordinating and partially funding the Year 6 Yearbooks. All of which directly benefit our children and enrich their primary school experience. This year our intention is to continue supporting OPAL – to that end our Christmas activities will be raising money to fund a mud kitchen and there are other exciting ideas in the pipeline for the outside space at the school.

Our normal activities were limited last year, as already mentioned, but we still managed to have lots of Christmas activities (Christmas cards designed by the children, advent calendar raffle, main raffle and Christmas jumper competition) – a highlight of which was the live raffle drawer hosted by Mr Cotterill and our Mayor, Stewart Gardiner – and something we intend to repeat this year. The children and teachers all drew self-portraits which got turned into tea-towels (1 for each key stage), which proved to be lovely souvenirs for their families to buy and keep or give as gifts. We also managed to run a Valentine’s competition, Easter competitions (guess the number of sweets in the jar and a bunny hop), a quiz for the grown‑ups, and a leavers disco. And, although not to raise funds for the school, we held a joke competition for Comic Relief, with the best jokes winning the children the opportunity to tip a bucket of water over staff, governors or MPSA committee members who didn’t say ‘no’ quickly enough – it was very…refreshing – and the children loved it! Not bad considering all that was during a pandemic and between various levels of lockdown.

This year we are hopeful that some things will be able to return to normal – we have already hosted our first in-school activity (the Halloween disco) since we first went into lockdown, which the children really enjoyed and seemed to be a success. And, as you may have seen, we are just starting the Christmas activities – as the Christmas experience at school will still not be back to normal this year, we cannot have a fair – so we have decided to replicate Christmas 2020, which proved to be remarkably successful and hopefully means it is still a fun time for the children. As part of this, we intend to do what we did last year and provide a gift from Santa for each child. We have also hosted a meet and greet in the playground to allow the families of the children at the school to meet us…and eat cake; over said cake we met several people keen to be involved and, in fact, we have had fabulous numbers of volunteers to help with the Halloween disco and Christmas preparation already, which is brilliant. And being able to share the load a bit more again is a great position to be in. Here’s hoping that we can continue to return closer to normality over the course of the year, bringing lots more fun and enjoyment to the children at the school.