PAWS Chair Report - 2025

Introduction

Good evening, everyone, and thank you all for taking the time to join us for our PTA Annual General Meeting.

We are Nicole Davies and Stacey Roe we are the current co-chairs of Parents at Wheatfields School (PAWS). It's great to see so many parents, teachers, and staff here today – your presence shows the strong community we have and your ongoing commitment to supporting our school.
Tonight's meeting is an important one. The AGM is our opportunity to reflect on the past year's activities, share our achievements, review the financial position, and elect the committee members for the year ahead.

I'd like to take a moment to welcome Mrs Verney Davies, our headteacher, and thank her for her continued support. I'd also like to acknowledge our outgoing committee members and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

We hope this will be an informative and encouraging session, and that you leave feeling inspired to stay involved with the PTA, in whatever way you can.

We will start off with our chair report -reflecting on some of highlights from over the last year.

Carboot

This year we tried bringing in a new event of a car boot, this brought a lot of interest for the stalls and was lovely seeing the playgrounds full, but sadly the footfall wasn't quite there to make it a busy event. We learnt that advertising early on and spreading the word further may of helped encourage more people in and maybe one to try again in a warmer season as it may be more tempting in nicer weather.

Halloween Disco

We were very excited to have our first halloween disco. It was a huge success with lots of families attending in some spooktacular costumes. We had some impressive home grown pumpkins, and some fabulous decorated pumpkins which helped to decorate the school. We hope to be able to run it again this year.

Christmas Fair

Christmas is always a special and exciting time in school, and we were eager to create a festive atmosphere by organising a Christmas Fair. However, with only a small group of volunteers—many of whom were already stretched thin—we underestimated just how much work it would take to bring the event together.

Following the fair, we took time to reflect and explore alternative ideas to celebrate the festive season as a school community in future years. So, watch this space — we're already thinking ahead, and will be needing some volunteers very soon!

Sponsored Event

A huge thank you to Mrs. Pope for coordinating our fantastic sponsored event! It was a fun-filled afternoon packed with dancing, running, yoga, football, multi-sports, and even an obstacle challenge — something for everyone to enjoy!

This year, to help us reach our play equipment goal, we challenged the children to aim for £20.25 each in sponsorship, and we were absolutely blown away by their enthusiasm and the incredible support they received from family and friends. Thanks to their amazing efforts — and your generosity — we raised enough to finally place the order for our new play equipment.
Well done to everyone involved — what a brilliant team effort!

New Play Equipment

One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly the installation of our brand-new play equipment. After many meetings, discussions, and design revisions with various companies, we finally settled on a layout that offered a real challenge for the older children — while still staying within our budget. It was a learning curve for all of us (especially discovering that the safety flooring costs almost as much as the equipment itself!).

We're absolutely delighted with the final result, and we hope the children have been enjoying every moment of it. It's been fantastic to see it in full use during playtimes!

Dress Down days - break the rules day

To round off the year, we introduced a new (and slightly mischievous!) event — Break the Rules Day. A big thank you to **Mrs. Verney-Davies** for allowing us to go ahead with it! The children were given five school rules they were allowed to "break," each with a 50p fine — and they had a brilliant time doing just that!

It was a fun, light-hearted way to end the year, and thanks to your support, especially from parents who paid those fines, it turned out to be our **most successful dress-down day to date**. We'd love to make it a regular feature in the school calendar going forward!

Summer fair -

We spent a lot of time deliberating over whether to go ahead with a Summer Fair this year, due to the work involved and the small committee of volunteers.
In the end, we decided to give it a go! When the weather is on our side, it's such a lovely way for families and children to come together and enjoy the school grounds in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

A big shoutout to our **Year 6 pupils**, who ran some brilliant stalls with creative and entertaining ideas. Their efforts helped raise valuable funds and added a lot of fun to the day.
Due to limited volunteer numbers, we weren't able to coordinate external stallholders this year, but that didn't stop us from trying out some new things. One of the biggest hits was the **bake sale** — we had so many delicious donations that we had to bring out extra tables just to fit all the cakes! Thank you so much to everyone who baked and contributed.

Another highlight for me was finally bringing a bbq to the summer fair, the first time we ever sold out of hot food. It was great to see a constant bustle around the area and it really helped bring the spirit of summer. Big thank you to the dads who took charge of cooking for everyone, it would be brilliant if we can do it again as it did seem to go down well with all ages.

Popular favourites like the **bouncy castle**, **stocks**, **tombola**, and **face painting** also made a return and were a big hit with the children.

We'd love to see events like this continue, but we really do rely on the support of volunteers to make them happen. If you'd like to see another Summer Fair next year we will need more help from our school community planning and on the day.

Thank You

First, we'd like to extend a very special thank you to **Mrs. Pope**, who will be stepping down from her role as our staff representative after four wonderful years on the committee. Mrs. Pope began as a parent member and later joined us as a staff member, offering consistent support, enthusiasm, and practical help in bringing our events to life. We are incredibly grateful for everything you've contributed over the past four years — thank you.

We also want to acknowledge the support of local businesses and individuals who went above and beyond this year.

A huge thank you to **Andrea Gaynor**, who brought incredible energy and fun to our sponsored event by running the dance element. It was lively, engaging, and a brilliant way for the children to exercise while raising money. Everyone had a fantastic time!

Thank you to **Ellis Winters** for their generous contribution towards our play equipment fund, helping us reach our goal. They also supported us by helping to create a promotional video to raise awareness of the work PAWS does — we truly appreciate their involvement.

KA Page also deserves special recognition for kindly laying a new path from the playground to the trim trail, using paving slabs kindly donated by 'Enhance Your Space Landscaping'. This has made a real difference to our outdoor space, allowing safe, mud free access to the new play equipment.
We are also incredibly grateful to **all the teachers** at the school for their continued support — whether helping out at events, collecting money, or promoting our activities, your help does not go unnoticed.

A heartfelt thank you to the **Office Staff** for being our vital link to parents and for helping us communicate all the important details. Your support is invaluable.

Thank you as well to the **Kitchen Staff** — not only for allowing us to use the kitchen facilities but also for lending a hand with cooking and serving food and drinks at our events.
And finally, a big thank you to **Mr. Carter**, who is always there to help with setting up, tidying away, and staying late to lock up after our events. Your support behind the scenes makes a huge difference.

Without the ongoing support of the entire school community — staff, parents, and local businesses — we simply couldn't do what we do. So thank you all for making this a fantastic year!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who come to our regular meetings and will be familiar faces at our events. Without your support we really wouldn't be able to put on any events. We had some new volunteers who stepped in to help us run Frozen Friday - a favourite in the Summer Term, without them we wouldn't have been able to do it.

Looking forwards
This year has been a challenge for our small committee, many of whom have been balancing work, family, and other responsibilities alongside their PAWS commitments. Despite the pressures, we've worked hard to bring fun and meaningful events to the school — because we know how much the children enjoy them.

As our AGM meetings bring a new opportunity for change, we are sadly seeing Nicole step away from cochair of the committee, despite this being a joint role Nicole has brought so much to the position, always fabulous ideas. The highlights has to be the trim trail where Nicole showed a huge drive and passion to make sure this was a success and whilst doing so raised the most amount of money we've ever achieved. Nicole will remain on the committee (thank goodness) but I do just want to say a huge thank you, you've done so much and brought every event together, there's always so much that goes on behind the scenes of the events and you've been an incredible driving force ensuring all elements are factored in and planned for. We took this role on together without much knowledge of what or how we would do things but you really did shine on shaping a new way.

The events are so vital for the school but the enjoyment the families and children have do make it so worth while, I look forward to working alongside a new Co- Chair as we navigate co chair together and am excited to see what another year brings.

As Marianna will outline in the Treasurer's Report, **PAWS helps to fund a wide range of things within school — many of which simply wouldn't be possible without your generosity.**

We’re incredibly proud of what we’ve achieved together, but in order to continue this support, **we’ll need more helping hands**. Whether you can spare time regularly or just occasionally, every little bit makes a big difference.

Let’s keep making great things happen for our children — and we’re counting on your support to help us do just that.