

Chair's Report 2023

Our committee has been a small one this year, but we continue to encourage support amongst parents to help us with our fundraising activities. Whilst many parents have been happy to help during the 2022-2023 academic year, many more are still reluctant to come forward and our committee has become ever smaller which has put increased pressure on the members planning and organising our fundraising events.

We have received good feedback on the whole, from parents about our events, parents seem to appreciate the work we put in and enjoy the social events including Christmas Fair, Welcome Back picnics and Summer socials.

At the beginning of the September 2022-2023 academic year, we were able to increase our offering to all classes to £500 per class (rather than £250 per class as it has been in previous years), and Mr King has said how grateful the teachers are to have some extra funds to use for school trips, experiments and general resources.

We were fortunate enough to receive £29,000 which we were left in someone's will, and this was definitely a highlight of the year.

Despite being a small committee we have been able to fulfil all of our usual events, and have adapted pretty well to having slightly less support on the committee.... changes to our Christmas Fair last year were well received, and we still raised a good amount of money. There was no negative feedback (as far as we know), for having to scrap the BBQ during the summer social, and parents seem to accept that everyone has less time to offer.

This year will be my last as Chair, but I would still like to support on events in the future, so this is not the end!

I am particularly grateful to Olita our new treasurer last year who has done an amazing job at picking up the reigns from Lorraine and has put some new processes of her own in place to streamline us and make our accounting quicker.

During 2022-2023 I have been putting a focus on:

- Documenting our paperwork and putting it all on our 'one drive' so that we can go paperless in the future.
- Ensuring everything is stored on the OneDrive securely, and never to laptops minimising the chances of things being lost.
- Putting processes in place and in writing so that if one of us falls ill, the Friends can continue to operate.
- Starting a handover document so the next Chair will be able to pick up the reigns easily.

I have no doubt that this year will bring us further challenges as parents have less time, and the cost of living crisis continues to hit almost every family in some way. We may have to adapt our ways of working over the coming months so that the pressure on a small few doesn't become too overwhelming, and my hope is that our parent community realise that without their support, we simply won't be able to run the events they enjoy so much.

Polly Peart

October 2023