



Friends Association of Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) School

Chair's Report 2022

19th October 2022, 18:30

Chair's update

- Wow, what a year! We kicked off with our first ever live Circus last October which was a huge success and a welcome highlight for the children after all the lockdown restrictions. This was followed by our inaugural Christmas Fair and then a teacher-led disco to kick start the new year. Our popular class bake sales now include a Pre-Loved Uniform stall which has been enthusiastically supported by everybody ensuring more affordable items and less waste. The Summer Fair went off very well and everyone thoroughly enjoyed all the Jubilee performances put on by the pupils. We closed our busy year off with a fond farewell to our Year 6's at the Leavers Dance & BBQ
- While all the event planning and fundraising has been taking place the Committee and school have been hard at work delivering the initiatives that were agreed for 21/22 with a key focus being on improving the mental, physical and emotional well-being of all pupils following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We already have a packed agenda for the school year ahead starting with our inaugural Fireworks Extravaganza! More on this and other events shortly.
- Finally, a huge thank you to all the class reps, committee members, school staff, and parent volunteers who have put so much time and effort into Friends events over the past year, without whom it would have been impossible to achieve everything we have.

Committee update

- We are very sad to be losing one of our biggest supporters and champions, Bob Holliday. Without his involvement, our events won't be the same, but hopefully, he will come along and enjoy some of the fun from the other side. We wish him well in his retirement.
- Amanda Maclean is stepping down from her role as Secretary as of the 31st October. Huge thanks to Amanda for all her help and organisation over the last year.
- We are excited that Elspeth Dunn and Alison Wood will be joining the team. Elspeth is joining as Secretary and Alison as Vice-Chair.
- This year the Friends Association has become a member of the PTA organisation Parentkind. This allows us to benefit from their wide-ranging insurance cover, extensive advice, and to make use of standardised committee governance (recognised and recommended by the Charity Commission). There is also a wealth of information regarding fundraising options and materials for these (e.g. risk assessments, poster templates etc). We will be adopting the Parentkind Model Constitution and are seeking sign-off of this from this forum.

Achievements

- Following the disruption to pupils' lives in 2020 our goal last year was to support their mental, physical and emotional well-being by providing funding for the following school projects:
 - New play equipment for the playground
 - The revamping of the Hive (Nurture Groups Room) to help support pastoral care for children and parents.
 - Creation of a sensory space outside of the hive where children can have 1:1 catch-ups and do quiet group work.
 - The Team Points Project, with tokens awarded for team points (related to students' approach and attitude).
- A Creative writing subscription to Pupil Magazine, where pupils can contribute to their own online magazine, Wye's Words, helping to increase pupil engagement and enjoyment of writing and providing an opportunity for public celebration of pupils' writing
- Christmas Elves visit, with the gift of a book for each child
- We were again successful in being selected to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund. A big thank you to all Co-Op members who chose us as their charity.
- Year group cake sales this year had a makeover with proceeds split between each class for teachers to use as they see fit.
- Facebook page now has 300 members

2022/23 fundraising

- This year we are organizing some new events and some old favourites:
 - Fireworks display
 - Circus & Fair (which replaces the Summer Fair)
 - Roll-out of the 50-50 club
 - Christmas Fair and raffle
 - Year group cake and book sales
 - Discos
 - Pre-loved uniform sales
- In addition to the above, we have again made a submission to be beneficiary of the Co-Op Community Fund.

Finance update 2021/22

Table 1. Financial summary

Category	(£)	Comments
Events	20,687	See table 2
Donations	3,099	Co-op funding £1,979, Benivity £200
Total income	23,785	
Event costs	(8,963)	
School funding	(9,540)	£5890 to R&R Landscaping for Hub development, Money from cake sales for each class, Elf visit, Pupil's magazine, Sport equipment
Other costs	(363)	
Total expenditure	(18,866)	
Surplus/(deficit)	4,919	
Opening Balance	13,348	As at October 1, 2021
Closing Balance	18,268	As at September 30, 2022

¹Hive development stalled due to the contractor pulling out.

Unfortunately, payments totalling £5,890 had been made but the corresponding work was not delivered.

Seeking advice and will be taking the contractor to the small claims court for recovery of monies paid.

Table 2. Event profit/loss

Event	Income	Costs	Profit(+)/Loss(-)
Christmas Fair	5,060.37	(887.06)	4,173.31
Summer Fair	6,254.45	(2195.24)	4,059.21
Circus	6659	(3850.59)	2,808.41
Cake Sales	1,944.01	0	1,944.01
Discos	1,368.89	(966.2)	402.69

Committee structure 2022/23

Core Committee

Role	Name
President	Mrs Rachael Foster
Chair	Stella Llong
Vice-Chair	Alison Wood
Treasurer	Teodora Smith
Secretary	Elspeth Dunn
Teacher Rep.	Mrs Kristen Weiss

Class Reps

Year	Class	Reps
R	Butterfly	Stephanie Smith
	Bumblebee	Elspeth Dunn
1	Fox	Alison Wood; Georgia Bozekova; Sam Whitehouse; Rebecca Hoare
	Hedgehog	Sarah Hart-Johnson; Georgie James; Charlotte Phillips; Hollie Priestley
2	Rabbit	Angelina Tulett; Hannah Muskett; Teertha Shetty
	Squirrel	Katie Coles; Penny Wilcox
3	Blackbird	Lydia Capon; Sarah Smith
	Chaffinch	Lucy Pollard; Laura Starley
4	Kingfisher	Becky Carter; Emma Doohan
	Parrot	Robyn di Cesare; Jess Potter; Sophie Flanagan
5	Puffin	Johanna Maxfield
	Swift	Liz Rushton (Callaghan); Lu Yang
6	Woodpecker	Stevie Bull
	Wagtail	TBC

Use of 2021/22 funds

- 2021/2022 funds will support the school with a very exciting long-term development project, a Performing Arts Studio, entailing the redevelopment of the current Music Room into a creative space for music, dance and drama.
- Research shows that children who sing/dance/act/play their little hearts out are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement compared with their non-performing friends, and they tend to have enhanced cognitive, motor, and social development to boot. But the benefits don't end there; getting up on stage can enrich a child's life in all sorts of surprising ways:
 - Music and movement help children develop skills such as cognitive growth, problem-solving, self-expression and social development
 - Art activities give children a much-needed chance to express their ideas, build on their observational skills, gain confidence, promote feelings of self-worth and develop their creativity and imagination, as well as offering them time to relax
 - Performing Arts allow children to develop creative passions, they simultaneously teach children language and communication skills, helping them to communicate effectively with others with confidence, as well as allowing for self-expression through exploring alternative options and embracing individuality.