

Friends of Yaxham Primary School – Chair’s Report for AGM 13th November 2019

The aim of the Friends of the School has always been to support the school by providing funding to allow the school to provide additional activities and facilities that the school budget could not provide. Over the years this has resulted in the Friends contributing to large scale projects like the building of the ELF, but also the smaller items like buses for school trips and book bags and water bottles for new intake. Our financial year 2018/19 has been no exception – we have provided funding for the extension of the Trim-trail, Clicker software for the school, outdoor teaching resources for Reception, books and book bags, as well as buses for school trips – over £10k (£10,218) of funding has been provided, one of highest over the recent years.

This has only been possible through the hard work of our small committee on providing an array of fundraising activities, which have been supported not only by the parents, but the wider community. This year we held our first Community Yard sale – the brainchild of Claire and totally exceeded our expectations and resulted in the whole community coming together. This event allowed two charities to work together – the YVAA and the Friends, something that in the past was never achieved. Our school discos have become a regular feature of the school calendar and are exceptionally well attended by the whole school and contribute to our fundraising. The school fete returned to the Summer this year – the favourite stall returned, but we also introduced some new additions including children’s games, Nerf shooting and crazy golf; this was our main fundraiser, generating £2,446 – again this was supported by the whole community.

The Friends have also hosted events in the school – the Easter breakfast and Easter egg hunt; which has also supported by Sally and Mark from the Church and funded by the Friends. We hosted the Christmas lunch for all the children, staff and governors – the Friends provided the and banquet of sweet treats, followed by a special visit from Father Christmas who presented gifts to all children, funded by the Friends. Our leavers were treated to an adventure evening at South Green Park, where they climbed climbing walls and rode Segways; funded by the Friends. The children were treated to an ice-cream following a sweltering Sports day courtesy of the Friends.

Over the last 12-months our small committee has certainly had a great impact on the children of our school.

The last 12-months has seen a series of changes for our committee – we started the year with a new Constitution that was a result of our last AGM. This replaced an aged constitution, removing the grey areas and providing clear, transparent processes for us to follow, accepted by the Charity's Commission. This was a steep learning curve for us all, following a new prescribed process. We experienced several resignations throughout the year, which certainly resulted in a loss of manpower and knowledge from the Committee but this was something that we worked hard as a team to overcome with success.

We should be proud of what we have achieved for our school and our children.

As my term as Chair comes to an end, I would like to thank our Committee – Melissa our secretary, Michelle our treasurer and Emma, Louise and Claire. Your support and hard work are what has achieved this year's results. Jennie you have spearheaded our work with your team and the parents; a true supporter of our work and also for me as Chair. Thank-you.

Leroy Burrell