



**Friends of St Winifred's Primary School
Chair's report to Annual General Meeting
18th September 2018**



The “Friends of St Winifred’s Primary School” is the school’s Parent Teacher Association. We are all parents, carers or staff at the school with an aim to bring our school community together, have a lot of fun and raise money to support our school. I am extremely proud and appreciative of the work the Friends undertook in 2017/18 to hold so many events for both parents and families. This year raising over £10,000 to enable the school to provide a greater breadth of opportunities for our children. On behalf of the Friends, I would like to thank you for your support over the last year and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Summary of the Year

Both in respect to developing our community and raising much needed finance for school, the year was a great success. Parents, carers, teachers and friends came together to share and enjoy a number of different events, for both adults and children.

Autumn term 2017, started with a welcome coffee morning for new parents and carers. The ever popular Quiz Night - accompanied by fish and chips - followed and the term closed with the Christmas Discos for all the children at the school. We further helped start the festive season by selling beautiful Nordic Pine Christmas Trees.

Spring term, helped by the snow, was a little quieter. However our children enjoyed their Easter Egg Hunt, made possible by kind donations from parents and local businesses. We also helped the school bid a fond farewell to the Effingham Road infants site, as well as welcomed all parents together on the infant site.

Summer term opened with a snow-free Family Bingo Night, as well as the Cake Sale for which we were overwhelmed by donations from across our school. As always the Summer Discos were extremely popular.

The school year closed with the return of St Winifred's Family Fun Day kindly sponsored by Peter James - and over 100 families hosted a promotional board raising extra funds. This year's event across the whole of our new school site was phenomenal: families, friends and teachers came out in force; over 70 people volunteered to help on stalls, with many more baking or cooking, or helping set or clear up; and it was especially wonderful to see so many Year 5/6 children help - they are extremely entrepreneurial! We are extremely grateful to local businesses - as well as families - for their kind donations of raffle prizes.

We are super proud that this event raised a record breaking nearly £7,000!!

How Friends' funding is use to support the school and improve the pupil experience

Rightly people always want to know what has happened to the money that they have donated and raised has benefitted the school and its pupils. Rest assured that the money enables the Head Teacher to invest in equipment and activities not possible through the school's budget from Government, such as special experiences, resources and treats for all the children. These would not be possible without your amazing generosity, energy and commitment to the School through the monies you donate at Friends' events.

Use of money raised in 2016/2017

As you may expect given the new school buildings, some of the funds were used to enhance the site for pupils beyond what was provided by the new developments. It helped ensure that all pupils are benefitting from the new development through new facilities across the site.

In particular monies were used to:

- help equip the sensory room and playground in the new early years block;
- provide new benches for the new hall;
- enable an artist to work with the children to create an amazing recycled plastic art installation in our main entrance hall - including class workshops;
- organise a range of workshops to enhance our children's education experience, including story telling during world book week, theatre groups performances and a dance specialist to work with all classes;
- build new storage sheds;
- install four new colourful benches for the playground; and
- help purchase new instruments, additional sports kit, and equipment;
- provide new books for classrooms and the library;
- replace the wooden animal houses; and
- provide treats for children on special occasions.

How 2017/18 Friends' funding will be used in the coming year

We are delighted to be able to hand over a cheque for over £10,000 to Miss Hanrahan tonight from the activities run during 2017/18.

Obviously it is important that the School has the flexibility to allocate the funding across the year, based on needs and opportunities that arise that can enhance the school and learning environment. There are already a range of uses the Head Teacher has already identified, including:

- enhancement of the peace garden - an oasis of calm in our busy school - including grass water feature, benches and new planters
- bringing in experts to enhance learning, including art specialists from Bow Arts to lead projects in every class as well training for staff.
- drama and educational visits; and
- more books for the classes and library

Thank yous

Firstly I should start with a general thanks, as the Friends is part of the School community and is nothing without the support it receives from families, friends and staff throughout the year.

This very successful year would not have happened without all the breadth and number of contributions and support, including: our Flexible Friends; all our bakers; the many parents who helped at events; the office staff who collected money and forms; the caretakers who helped set up halls, moved tables and chairs and locked up after us; the Head Teacher and teachers for their continuous support; the Little Gremlins staff; and last -but definitely not - least everybody who came to the events helping us to raise money to support the school. It pays tribute to the incredible community of our school.

I particularly want to recognise the dedication of the 2017-18 Committee, who worked incredibly hard all year to pull off the range of events we all enjoyed. We are very fortunate that many of Committee are staying on to continue to deliver and support the work of our school. However I would particularly like to recognise and thank outgoing committee members for their dedication and support to the school during their time on the committee: Azille McKinven; Karen Masterton and Marta Tabinski (who is stepping down from the Committee but has agreed to remain as Treasurer - ex-officio). In addition we thank Gloria Begu who was with us until Christmas and Karen McClaren who stepped down during the summer term. Without the hard work of this dedicated group and the support of our parents and carers none of this would have been possible.

As outgoing Chair, I want to take a moment to thank all the Committee members I have worked with over the last three years. I have had a wonderful time, made many friends and appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the development of our School. I am so proud that over three years I have been involved in the Friends (two as Chair) we have raised £30,000 for the School.

Finally, I wish the new Committee all the very best and know it will be another wonderful year for the school. I strongly encourage anyone thinking of joining the committee to come and talk to them or me, as I thoroughly recommend it!!

Aideen Brannan
Chair, 2017-18