

## Chair's Report AGM 12.09.14

Since the last AGM in April 2013 the Friends have been busy. Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those parents, carers, grandparents and members of the parish, staff and others who support us and help us at the events. Without their support we would not be able to have so many events and raise the much needed funds which support the school and staff in educating our children.

Since April last year we have had the summer ball in June 2013 which seems a long time ago now and, in fact, the next SSMJ summer bash is in the pipe line for next June 2015. This is due to have a less formal feel to it and to be more accessible at the social centre (and a cheaper taxi ride home). It will still involve a 3 course meal, an auction and hopefully a live band as previous years and we hope to have another fantastic evening.

We introduced chocolate bingo for the first time in September. This ran straight after school and was particularly aimed to be a 'welcome' for our reception children and their families but was, in fact, enjoyed by all year groups. We are planning another for this September.

October saw another autumn family fun night with DJ 'Get Shorty' and November we held another Family Photo session with David Scholes. In December we supported the parish Christmas fair and again held our own mini Christmas fair.

We have held 2 film nights – one for infants and one for juniors which were really fun social occasions for the children and we have recently held our summer fayre.

We have also raised money through 'Bags to School' clothes collections, although this has not recently been so successful and is under review.

The Friends also support school in ways that are far less glamorous and more practical in their nature. Every year we pay for and organise the wrapping of Christmas presents for the infant party and then help set up the event on the day so that staff can concentrate their efforts on the games played and the visit by Father Christmas rather than the putting out and tidying up of party food.

We also organise and serve refreshments at several events:-

- at the new intake parents night (the first impression of the school for many)
- at the sports day
- and we provide the cake and refreshments for the Holy Communion breakfast and serve these on the morning.

Since the last AGM school has requested funds to subsidise the panto trip which children from every year group attended and we have been asked to pay for maths challenge cards to be used throughout the school. We were also asked to replace chairs in the infant classrooms as these were beginning to break and this has now extended into the juniors. However, previous plans

for the funding of an outdoor classroom have now been changed as the staff and pupils would prefer to have some outdoor play equipment. We have already donated £1000 towards this and, after all our other expenditures and fundraising efforts this year, we now have the same amount of money in the account as this time last year which we can now put towards the development of the playground.

We really appreciate parent, pupil and staff suggestions for ideas how funds could be spent but we are constrained by the constitution which states our objective as:

- 2.1 Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school;
- 2.2 Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils;

and we always seek approval of the head teacher and governing body who have an insight into the budgets, pots of money and grants available to the school.

This year we would like to have support especially to promote events and to keep the website up to date. We always need more helpers both at events and in planning events and we would like everyone to be able to feel they can contact us to offer support rather than feel that they need to be invited. We are an open group and anyone is able to attend any or all meetings at any time but you should not feel that you have to attend meetings to be involved. We are hoping to be able to share what we do via the website but parent mail and email has also made communicating much easier.

I would like to thank all the committee for their hard work and especially Teresa for all her work over the last few years as secretary and wish her good luck in the future.

We hope you will continue to support the newly elected committee this year.