

Minutes Friends of Marlborough St Mary's Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 23rd September 2020

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Lisa Farley, Dawn Patterson, Lou Avis, Claire Presley, Saffron Gannon, Anne Schwodler, Sam Cook, Kate Hughes, Vanessa Minchin, Hannah Mann, Rachel Herring

Apologies: Becky Deane, Ben Ferris, Sarah Hart, Monica Braithwaite, Maricel Agustin

2. Chair's Report

Lisa Farley presented the following report:

Objectives:

The main objective of the Friends is to raise money to enhance the experience that Marlborough St Mary's offers the children.

We try to increase the amount of parents/carers to be involved with the Friends where we can, inviting volunteers to help with multiple fundraising events throughout the year – the last year has had it's challenges with Covid forcing us to cancel planned events starting with the usually popular Curry & Quiz night, sponsored swim and the big event of the year the Summer Fayre. With it looking unlikely that many events will not take place in the foreseeable future, the Committee will have to think outside the box for the next year. However, in my term as Chair we did manage some successful events.

Christmas cards – were fairly popular, they went off late due to late ordering, but have already been done for this year.

Sponsored Bounce – again, we managed to get the whole school bouncing – highly enjoyed by all the children taking part.

School Disco – There definitely wasn't the amount of discos we would have liked but the one we had was very well attended, lots of great moves and prizes won!

Children in Need – PJ Day – very successful. Raised more for charity and less stress on Committee.

Sport Relief – Get Up & Dance – fantastic event.

Christmas Fayre – Hugely successful event, amazing amount of Volunteers – overwhelming amount from Marlborough College which helped to make it a success. Raised more money than in previous years.

Thanks to all Volunteers, without whom we are unable to raise the money that provides so much to our Children. Parents & Carers who support our events by helping get raffle prizes, baking, manning stalls, helping to clear up, counting bounces and most importantly attending events with their money and sponsorship. It is hugely appreciated by us, the school and the children – none of the fun would happen without them.

Thanks to Mrs Schwodler and the staff that help with our events and patiently work around our events, from bringing them to bounce mid lesson, lending classrooms for events, collecting money, manning stalls and dancing at the disco!

Thanks to Michelle Morley for use of your kitchen! We promise to try not to leave items in your fridges and freezers again!

Thanks to Sue & Suzannah for your help and patience with the new Committee in sending out all of our emails and dealing with us in general.

Thanks to Mog the Caretaker for helping clean up our mess and helping with access and locking up of the school after hours.

Thank you to the rest of the Committee – I could not have done any of it without you!

We are always looking for helpers and volunteers for the Friends. If you have any skills that could be of help at future events or just want to be involved in anyway, please speak to any of us! Any help is appreciated no matter how small.

3. Treasurer's Report

Saffron Gannon presented the accounts up to and including 31 July 2020. A copy was produced and screen shared on Zoom to all present.

We started the year with a total opening balance on 1st August 2019 of £10,137 and we have ended the year with a balance of £10,254. With all things considered in the current situation we are doing well.

We have made purchases this year totalling approx. £8,000 – this included the promise of a £3,500 contribution to complete the KS2 play equipment last year.

Phase 1 of the KS1 playground has started with the purchase of the wooden train at £2,200. We have also provided dance festival costumes, replaced tired playground toys, and given Christmas and Easter presents to every child in school.

Due to the pandemic we have not been able to hold our usual events. We did however have our most successful Christmas Fayre to date raising £3,500, a very popular disco raising £619 and we just managed to squeeze the sponsored bounce in which, including gift aid, raised £1,245.

We have also been lucky enough to receive fund-matching donations from Vodafone totalling £1,050 this year via a parent who works there.

Copies of the accounts are available to view if anyone would like to.

These accounts are subject to independent examination in line with the direction of the constitution and the requirements of the charity commission. Lynne Blunden has also kindly agreed to be our examiner for next year as well.

The accounts were recommended to be adopted by Saffron Gannon, this was proposed by Lisa Farley and seconded by Anne Schwodler.

4. Headteacher's Report

Thank you to all the 'Friends of MSM' and a special thank you to the committee who always work tirelessly to support the school. A huge thank you to Saff who has supported the school for many years. Her dedication will be missed by us all.

The Friends of the School are a key part of the school, not just through fundraising but also through the sense of community they bring to the school.

This year has been a year like no other and because of the pandemic the order of the school year has changed considerably and we are likely to have challenges ahead for some time.

Despite the shortened year, the Friends have still managed to support the school in many ways:

- Fundraising
 - A highlight of the year was the Christmas Fair, which the children love.
 - Fun events for children –Father Christmas, School Disco etc.
 - Fundraising money has been put towards a new wooden train for the KS1 playground. This is the first phase of a comprehensive plan of refurbishment for the KS1 playground.
 - Unfortunately we have not been able to hold some of our big fundraising events, such as the Summer Fayre and sponsored swim, Rick Stein Coffee morning.

- Last year
 - A good start to the year with annual celebrations such as Harvest and Christmas taking place.
 - A focus on Maths with a well supported Maths Open Evening and Morning. We have bought into a new maths scheme called ‘Can Do Maths’ which is proving popular with teachers and children.
 - For the first time ever we have had appeals from families who have not been able to get their children into the school. The reception classes are full with 6 children on the waiting list.
 - Young Voices - Over 60 children sang in the School Choir at the O2 for the Young Voices Festival.
 - Links with Marlborough College – Science lessons, Gifted and Talented Science Club.
 - Creative curriculum with visits and events linked to topics e.g. Medieval Day, Farleigh Castle.
 - The Y6 trip to Pencelli was extremely successful.

- School Priorities
 - Introduction of a new Maths Scheme
 - Develop links and transition between EYFS and Year 1 through continuous provision, Tapestry etc.
 - Updated curriculum theme map and further curriculum development in line with the new Ofsted Framework
 - Ensuring that all children have the opportunity to catch up on learning lost last year.

- The Friends make a real difference in the school and their help is greatly appreciated by children, staff and parents.

5. Election of Officers

Four of the previous committee stood for re-election and there being no other nominees was duly elected as follows:

Secretary – Dawn Patterson (proposed by Lisa Farley and seconded by Lou Avis)

Co Chair – Lou Avis (proposed by Dawn Patterson and seconded by Lisa Farley)

Co Chair – Becky Deane (proposed by Claire Presley and seconded by Dawn Patterson)

Co Chair – Claire Presley (proposed by Becky Deane and seconded by Dawn Patterson)

Saffron Gannon resigned from the committee as Treasurer, respectively, and the following nominations were elected.

Treasurer – Lisa Farley (proposed by Claire Presley and seconded by Lou Avis)

Vice Chair – Sam Cook (proposed by Lisa Farley and seconded by Claire Presley)

6. Facebook

Need to organise the list on Facebook to make sure that members are parents/carers of children currently at the school.

7. Any Other Business

None.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7th October 2020, 8pm via zoom, ID and password to follow.