

Friends of St Mary's AGM

20th January 2017

It is with delight that I am able to present my first AGM as Chair of the newly renamed Friends of St Mary's.

2016 heralded another successful year of fundraising by the committee and with continued support from, parents, carers and extended families. It has also welcomed the increased participation from staff members, especially at the Sparkle and Slime disco, and the annual Christmas Fair.

As you are all aware, there have been changes within the committee, due to members leaving, and individuals stepping down. This initially resulted in a drive to recruit more members, and I am thrilled to see so many volunteers coming forward. These new members, as well as bringing a plethora of new ideas and skills, have also brought contacts within the local business community, which resulted in some fabulous prizes being donated for our Christmas raffle.

As Helen Muldoon, our former Chair, has already provided a report for the period January to July 2016, my report will focus on September onwards.

Welcome Tea 6th October 2016

Total Profit- £102.62

This was a disappointing turnout, as a first event as Chair. However, it was a steep learning curve, which highlighted the need for adequate promotion of the event. Also, the event was on a Thursday, rather than a Friday, so this will be taken into consideration for future events.

Action Plan

Ensure adequate promotion on school website, text messages from school and the increased use of social media.

Halloween Sparkle and Slime Disco 3rd November 2016

Total Profit- £220.90

This was supported well by the parents and children from the school.

On reflection of this event, it was advertised later than normal, as we were waiting to hear from the Karate club as to whether we could delay their start time. However, good use of social media resulted in a good turn out and a great time was had by all!

Action Plan.

I liaised with Tina Harrison, after the event, and she agreed in advance that we could delay the time for the next Sparkle and Slime disco. The date is now in the diary for 2017, the DJ booked and promotion of the event can now start in early October.

Christmas Cards.

Total Profit- £168.50

These proved popular again, with 99 orders placed. It involved four committee members coming into school and working with the staff in order to show support at a busy time within the school year. This paid off dividends.

Action Plan

To plan with teachers earlier in the school year to begin working on the cards, with help from committee members if and where necessary, that will mean cards can be sent out earlier before the October half term cut off period, giving families more time to place orders.

Christmas Fair 9th December 2016

Total Profit- £848.92

This Christmas fair has proved to be one of our most successful to date, thanks to the hard work of all committee members.

This fair saw the return of Santa's grotto which turned over £150!

Most stalls proved profitable, however, there was one or two that maybe need to be addressed for future events. The breakdown of the takings from each stall is available from the Treasurer.

It was also nice to see such great support from the staff, who found their little niche on the Tombola. Unfortunately, it wasn't without its teething problems, but the problems that led to confusion were established and a note taken for the next tombola.

Action Plan

To address those stalls which were not as profitable, and assess reasons why, ie location, activities, pricing strategies etc

To introduce more stalls making use of more space within school in and around the KS1 area.

To maybe offer Photos with Santa.

Future events are already in the early stages of planning and a meeting will be arranged to discuss the spring fair, due to take place Friday 24th March from 3.15 onwards.

The idea is to encompass Mother's Day (26th) Our Lady's Day (25th) and focussing on Mary our patron saint. The charity is yet to be discussed, as CAFOD has always played a big role around Lent. However, given the theme of the fair, we will be discussing the charity, Mary's Meals that provides education and school meals to children in developing countries. This will be discussed at greater length too. The date is already in the diary too, for the summer BBQ, to be held on Friday 14th July

At the start of the year letters were sent out to staff to ascertain what they had with regards to a wishlist that maybe we could contribute some funds.

Reception have requested monies for new earphones that will not break, along with some role play costumes and reading material.

Year 2 would like more guided reading books.

To conclude, may I take this opportunity to all those members past and present for all their continued support, it is a demanding role and all of your input is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to the coming twelve months and the work we can undertake to achieve great things for the school and its staff and pupils.

Sam Buller

Chair of The Friends of St Mary's