

# **FRIENDS OF BOSMERE SCHOOL**

**Registered Charity Number: 1173458**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**25th September 2020**

### **Chair's Report for the year 2019-20**

This year was a year like no other, when in March the government announced the closure of all schools due to the Coronavirus Pandemic! No one knew how long we would be away from school for, some were hopeful we would be back after May half term, whereas others were thinking more like September!

Despite the abrupt end to the school year in March, the PFA had worked tirelessly in the first half of the year and were still able to raise over £5,780 for the school (the treasurer's report will provide us with a more accurate breakdown shortly). The PFA are an active and supportive committee and it was great to have a few additional new members this year, who have been a great help and suggested some great new ideas!

Our PFA calendar was jam packed again this past year, with our usual traditional events, along with the planned revised Summer Social event, which sadly was unable to take place due to the Coronavirus restrictions. We were however able to hold all our planned events up until the school closed in March.

In the Autumn & Spring term we ran our usual film nights and managed to put on the autumn discos for KS1 and KS2 which were as popular as ever, generating a good income for the amount of work required. We then began busily planning for Christmas Fundraising which brought Christmas cards & the ever popular Christmas Fair, where we managed to trump the profit from the 2018 fair, a great effort all round! The success of the fair was helped immensely by the increase in space around school with the addition of the new studio where we were able to run the LKS2 stalls and 'Selfie with the Elfie' from, freeing up some space to run new stalls! Sadly it doesn't look likely that we will be able to run a Christmas Fair in the same capacity this year, but we will be getting our thinking caps on to see what other Christmassy type things we can offer that adhere to the current guidelines!

Following the success over the last two years, we managed to run another family friendly quiz, at the beginning of March just before the global Pandemic was announced! We were thankful that we were able to hold this event, as we brought in a healthy profit of circa £300. Although down from last year's takings (due to having to purchase the cheese/biscuits this year where previously Suffolk EATS have kindly supplied for us in kind), it was still a good earner for the amount of work required.

Sadly, that's where our fundraising from the main events ended! We were all very excited about our new event a Clothes Swap evening at The Limes planned for May but hopefully we will be able to do this in the future! Thanks to Jane for the suggestion and organization you had already put into it!

Separate from the main events, we also managed to fit in a couple of Bag2School collections, various secondhand uniform sales and tea and coffee sales/raffles at school productions. Also Easyfundraising and Stampstastic commissions quietly earning in the background. We also received £200 from the CoOp fund, which was a nice additional 'earner'!

We have also found some time to spend some money too!

Once again, we have contributed to school trips to ease the financial burden on parents as well as subsidising the Christmas lunch and the Planetarium visit in the Autumn term which the whole school have benefited from. We also donated £2,000 for new books for the school as well as new chess equipment for the after school club, but by far one of our biggest investments this year, which will hugely benefit all Bosmere pupils is the purchase of a new whole school scheme for PSHE/RSE which I believe is due to be implemented this term. I know I'm looking forward to hearing all about it from my children!

To those of you who are to become involved in the PFA this year (it will be a little different but equally as rewarding and fun!), whatever time you can give, the PFA can use, whether it's helping out at daytime events or evenings, we welcome you all!

So, looking ahead to this coming year. Many of us have been part of the PFA committee for a number of years and as time runs away and our children grow and move on, it's time to hand over to those, who, will hopefully continue the excellent work we've been doing.

Anna Coppin left the PFA at the end of this academic year as her son moves on to High School and Jo Hughes will be leaving the PFA at the end of September once the Bags2School collection has been completed! Thank you for all your support over the many years of PFA!

A special thanks must go to Alison and Debbie our Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer, just quietly getting on with it in the background, busily counting and banking all our hard earned cash and balancing the books. You've made the job look easy! Thanks must also go to Laura our Secretary and Kate our Vice Chair as well as the rest of the PFA team (and Liz), I couldn't have done it without you so thanks for everything! Both Debbie and Laura have decided to hand over the reigns and step down from their committee roles this year but have agreed to stay on the PFA, so we are thankful to still have their expertise!

I think as a PFA we do a huge amount of work, most of which is unseen. We are a very successful, productive team and this has, once again, been reflected in our success. This year will be slightly different for us, with the ongoing Coronavirus restrictions in place but hopefully we can think of some new events that can be done virtually or in small groups, abiding by the guidelines, whilst still raising money for our fantastic school! I feel this will most likely be my last year as Chair, before I hand over the role to someone else, so I'm looking forward to hopefully another successful year!

I would also like to express thanks to all the parents and families who have supported and participated in our events so generously and enthusiastically – without your participation, there is no PFA.

Finally, huge thanks to all staff at the school, who've helped make our events possible, many of whom have given their own time, a special thank you must go to Nicola and Erica in the office for their help with all the extra work we create for them!

Looking ahead to this year, although different, I'd like to wish the entire committee every success in our fundraising.

Tiggy Challis

PFA Chair 2019-20