

## **Friends of Lower Peover School – Chair’s Report for Postponed AGM**

### **Academic Year 2019/2020**

#### Summary

The 2019/ 2020 academic year has been a mixed year for FLPS for the obvious reason that the latter part of the year we were in lockdown and as such unable to hold any events. Whilst we were lucky to have the Ball at the start of the academic year which is always a hugely successful event, we were unable to run Campfest which is our biggest event of the year.

Notwithstanding the difficulties that we have faced, we are still very proud that FLPS has raised £7,628 which is a huge achievement in the circumstances.

#### Postponement of AGM

It is important to note (and have minuted) that the AGM should have taken place in September 2020 in accordance with the FLPS’ constitution. However, at that stage in the year, we were unable to attend school or any other large venues in person and committee meetings were still taking place over zoom. Having spoken to Parentkind and considered matters, as Chair, I felt it was important that we still held an AGM albeit late in the academic year so that matters from the 2019/2020 academic year can be covered.

In addition, I felt it made things clearer for the AGM which will take place in September 2021. This can now deal solely with matters arising from the 2020/2021 academic year.

Given the current COVID restrictions, today’s AGM cannot be held in person as we are not permitted to meet in groups of more than 6 people and social distancing restrictions are still in place. As such, it is taking place over zoom as our only option is to hold it virtually.

#### Events

The year began with the Lower Peover School Ball held at The Courthouse for the second year running. Once again our school community came together and enjoyed a fabulous night and together we raised £4,784 which was the icing on the top of the cake.

In October we ran the Spooky Discos again. The children always absolutely love these events and we can’t wait to be able to run them again. The Spooky Discos raised £561.

2019 saw a change to our usual Christmas line up. Rather than having a Christmas Fair we held a Breakfast with Santa on a Saturday morning which was hugely popular especially with the younger members of the school and was a wonderful start to the Christmas period. Recognizing the popularity of the Unwanted Gift Room which usually forms part of the Christmas Fair, we ran that during a school day which the children loved and almost all took part in. We also ran the annual Christmas Raffle which is always a hit with the parents. The 2019 Christmas fundraising reached £2,383 which also included the sales from the Christmas Cards designed by the children.

Thank you to Janet Bromley and Martin Hughes for their amazing support once again with the Christingle service in January (2020).

Throughout the year we continued to receive payments from Easyfundraising thanks to everyone who has signed up to the app. Thank you to everyone who has done this so far and we would encourage anyone who has not to sign up to it. It is absolutely free to use but every time you make a purchase via this app a payment is made to FLPS.

Unfortunately, that is where our fundraising efforts had to halt in 2020 for that academic year as the usual Spring Fair and Campfest events had to be cancelled due to lockdown and school closure.

## Funded Items

We received several fundraising requests from school in the 2019/2020 academic year and were fortunate to be able to grant them all thanks to the support given by the school community over recent years.

This year we funded a magician to perform at school for the children as a Christmas treat, we paid the final annual instalment of the Maths Whizz programme, we funded the whole school Adrift Project and funded vital Mental Health Resources.

## Goals for 2020/2021

This section of the Report is a little different from usual given that firstly the AGM is later in the academic year having been postponed from September and secondly we are still extremely limited on what we are able to do in the 2020/2021 academic year given the restrictions still in place.

In the autumn term we managed to run some events that were very different from usual. We are so grateful for the support we received for those events. The 5km run over the October half term was very well supported with so many families running/ walking together and then donating their £5s to FLPS. The children all seemed to really enjoy the non-uniform day and it raised more than £200. Finally the Christmas Events were so well supported. The zoom with Santa was a magical experience for the children who took part and we are really grateful to everyone for attended that virtually. We were so pleased to be able to run the raffle again virtually rather than in person and that raised a massive £1,500.

Moving forward this year we are still very limited and we can't see a return to big events until at least the Autumn Term. Missing Campfest for a second year running leaves a big hole in our fundraising. However, we want to look forward to the Autumn Term and are really hopeful that the Ball can take place at The Courthouse again. We have the date secured and provided there are no restrictions we can't wait to put on a huge night for everyone and raise some well needed funds for our school. Please put 9 October 2021 in your diary and we will send out details of how to book your tickets for the Ball when we are able to.

We still have a term left of 2020/2021 and we hope to be able to run some events even with the continued restrictions. Please keep a look out for these events and support them in whatever way you can.

As ever we really need the support of all the parents at the school to keep FLPS going and raising funds for our school. Any contribution or effort no matter how small is so important. The key to success is to continue to work together. The past 12 months have been very difficult for everyone but we are so grateful for how the school staff have worked so tirelessly to keep educating and engaging our children both in school and at home and keeping everyone safe.

## Committee Members

Chair	Hannah Burgoyne
Vice Chair	Graham Nutt
Secretary	Hannah Buchanan
Treasurer	Kirsten O'Shea
Events Lead	Kristin Williamson
School Liaison	Mr Bradley
Committee Members	Saran Forshaw, Beth Binyon, Clare Harding, Tanya Mackle