

Friends of Ferndale  
Annual General Meeting  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Welcome and thank you for attending this year's Annual General Meeting for Friends of Ferndale, the name it which we operate under the umbrella of the **Parents Teachers Association** to which we are all automaticity apart of when our children start school.

In the academic year of 2022-23 Friends of Ferndale was running on a skeleton group of committee members by the time we reached January 2023.

At the last AGM we nominated a new Treasurer but unfortunately due to other commitments she could not fulfil her role. To add to this disappointment, the newly appointed Secretary, Kath was also unable to commit coming into the New Year but still volunteered with our events.

At the previous AGM, we also decided to introduce a new role to cover Social Media/ Graphics. Sadly, a short lived role but amazing efforts throughout our Christmas activities.

Julie was appointed Vice Chair and myself as Chair. Mrs Provost remained in her role as school ambassador to Friends of Ferndale. Due to a new career change, this role was passed onto Michelle in the New Year. . It needs to be said that Friends of Ferndale are a family and are always fully supportive to all our members and wish them well.

Our other small group of core members, quietly in the background have been very supportive and amazing. When called upon to do the most mundane of jobs (laminating, cutting, cashing up and so much more) they have been invaluable. They are always there for all our events so thank you very much. It really does take the pressure off knowing we can reach out for parent support when required.

Fully onboard is the School Admin Office. We are very lucky to have access to their communication system and their commitment to relieve the pressures of the committee when events are being organised. Huge thank you to Rhea and Jo who push their own heavy workload aside to help with PTA request ...and there are lots!!!!

This year we knew it was going to be exciting as all core events could be organised.

**Quiz night** didn't go ahead in September due to lack of numbers. No reason why this event cannot be re-organised but perhaps open to families rather than an adult only event.

## **Fireworks**

It was time to throw ourselves into organising the Fireworks. This a crowd puller and Friends of Ferndale need to take full advantage of this. Our role is to provide refreshments, beverages and glow products to hundreds of people.

As always, an amazing event and the weather was kind to us. There are three points that need to be addressed for this year's event is:

- Friends of Ferndale to source the Hots dogs / rolls etc to keep cost down.
- Hot Drinks to be on a separate stall to reduce waiting times.
- More staff and parent volunteers involvement is required. This would reduce stall queues and may encourage more people to wait for the refreshments.

We introduced some simple games such as Hook a Duck and a throwing game. More ideas for next time as we have a captive audience.

## **Christmas**

This is the busiest time of year for Friends of Ferndale as we have lots of separate events being organised.

Santa Letters, Christmas Shop, Breakfast with Santa, Raffle and Christmas Fayre.

Unfortunately, this year Santa cancelled due to ill health. With this, the Santa Experience did not go ahead. The Breakfast event in Nursery had our resident recorder playing Elf and a stand in Santa. This was good fun but due to lack of numbers it just broke even. The young children loved it so a job well done.

The Santa Letters are a great extra addition to the festive activities but is a very time-consuming activity for our Elf, so processes for a quicker way need to be discussed.

The Fayre went well and with many attending. The downside of this event this year was the disappointing news we can no longer use Fernbrook Hall. The impact of this was enormous. Constraints of setting up in the morning was restricted. During the event, the hall was jammed packed even though we used other rooms in the school. Planning for this year needs some consideration.

The fayre stalls are mainly run by the TA's. There are very few parents who get involved. Year 6 students ran stalls in KS1 hall which worked well as less staff members were required to supervise them.

Raffle works really well using pre-printed raffle tickets. Over the years, more items are being bought for the raffle. Letters are sent out to companies, but it would be great if we could ask parents to come onboard sourcing raffle items. The committee are maxed out organising Christmas events so a little more help from parents would be very beneficial.

### **March Disco**

We invited New Dimensions to do the disco who display all the flashing lights to make the atmosphere amazing.

This event is relatively easy to arrange with approximately 250 students attending. We need to find out why only half the children attend this event. Hopefully June disco will be outside which may encourage more to attend.

We do have core volunteers but need to encourage new parents to join us during the 3<sup>rd</sup> disco. As year 6 classes leave, so do the parent helpers.

Though we have increased the Pizza slice to £1.50, the pizza's still doesn't really make a great deal of profit.

Overall, after expenses we raised approx. £673 profit which is incredible. Stock will be used for next disco so this profit margin will rise.

### **Coronation Cake Sale (Not PTA)**

This was as amazing event run by school with help from the resident Elf. There was so many cakes to feed the entire world. Massive thanks to all the parents that contributed to this event. There was a visible reminder about bringing in cakes, on a paper plate. This has been done in the past so perhaps we keep this idea running for the fayres. The cake sale made over £600.

## **June Disco (Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June)**

Again, kids love the disco's and due to the hot weather we went outside. We sold hotdogs instead of Pizza's which well down well with the children. Again a great night and sales of sweets and glow products came to £633.

## **Summer Fayre (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July)**

This year we some great external stalls. We did miss our year 5 stalls this time. Soak the teacher went down very well and the children loved it. We would like to thank all the teachers who volunteered to get wet. Mrs Himples dancers put on an amazing show. It was unfortunate that the teacher strikes was on but I don't think this impacted to much. Some external stalls didn't make any money so we need to be mindful next year when inviting externals.

As the Chair, this year has been an incredible year but we cannot produce these amazing events with a small group. We need more volunteers, parents need a better understanding of what we do. We need to be seen, we need to communicate so with this I suggest a section in the Schools Monthly newsletter and a termly newsletter.

I end in announcing that all members of the committee will now step down from their current roles and a wish of great thanks expressed. Those now in attendance of this meeting will be given the opportunity shortly to be elected and stand on the Friends of Ferndale Committee.

Thank you

Jane Holden  
Chairperson