



September 2017

Dear all -

Thank you so much for coming along to the Friends AGM. It is so lovely to see so many new faces.

The last 12 months have been very busy with the unexpected departure of Emma Richards from the role of Chair in May. I only went along to the meetings to meet some new people after moving to Manor in September, and ended up as Chair! Thank you so much for the support of all the committee and mums who have helped me since then to try and muddle to the end of the Summer term! I think we did a great job with Sports Day and the end of term disco being really big income events for Friends.

As you may know, three times a year, teachers can submit funding requests to us for extra items for their classes that they would otherwise not be able to buy. The committee then decide how much funds we are able to allocate and let them know if they have been successful.

Over the last 12 months Friends have been fortunate enough to be able to fund the following items:

Puppet workshop (£150)

Bike helmets for pre-school and storage (£150)

Books for pre-school (£150)

Projectors (£580)

School server for internet and computers (£1900)

Contribution towards the Year 6 Leavers Books (£150)

PE Equipment (£890)

The Real PE Package (£1995)

As you heard from Tracey's Treasurers report we have a savings fund that will be partially spent on Funding Requests that come in from teachers over the next 12 months, but that will also be spent on an agreed larger item that we will decide on with Parent's input. In the

past this has been something like the wooden playground. I think it would be really nice for us to decide on this item before Half Term so that we know as parents, and as Friends, what our fundraising will be focussed on. Before you leave today, please add your ideas on to the Post-It wall at the back so we can take on board everyone's thoughts.

The fundraising we do as Friends is so important for the extras that we provide to help enrich our children's time here at Manor. Last year Friends organised the school discos, the Christmas fair, the Easter tea, and the refreshments and tombola at the sports day in the summer. This year we will likely do these same events, but will also look for new ways to fundraise, including non-events such as Bag2School or Class Fundraising (tea towels, cards etc). We would love your ideas!

However, not only are our events designed to raise money, but also, and always, with the children's enjoyment in mind. It is so lovely to see the children having such a happy time at the discos, and at the Christmas, Easter and Summer events too. For me, the school journey for our children is made all the richer by the added extras that PTA's - and in our case, Friends - are able to provide. We aim to keep costs low so that all activities are available to all, but still with the focus of raising the vital funds.

I would like to thank all the parents for their generosity in their donations, time, participation, and support of Friends over the last year. And a special thank you to the parents who attend the meetings and help plan, run, and manage the events. We couldn't do it without you! I would also like to thank Karen and the school team who are incredibly supportive and involved in all aspects of Friends - again, we are very lucky to have that.

I really look forward to welcoming new members on to the committee today, and I look forward to the coming year at Manor, to loads of exciting fundraising, and to more fun and games for our children!!

Jane Hooper

Acting Chair of Friends of Manor Primary School (2017)