

 **THE FRIENDS OF RODMARTON SCHOOL**

Chairperson Report

1st September 2021 – 31st August 2022

**Chair’s Report**

By becoming a parent at Rodmarton School, every parent automatically becomes a member of The Friends of Rodmarton School. This report gives a brief overview of what The Friends has achieved and obstacles we have encountered over the past academic year.

In this report we would normally also outline what we hope, with parents’ help, to achieve this coming year and to this end we have drafted a proposed event calendar, which will be passed to Mr Smith and his committee for them to agree and publish once they are in post.

Rachel, Tracey and I will be standing down from the management committee of the Friends and also Penny will be stepping down as Trustee at this meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracey, Rachel and Penny for their support.

As many of you will remember, at the start of the last academic year, the Covid pandemic was still very much disrupting normal life, but we did manage to hold several events in the run up to Christmas including Christmas Craft week, Wreath making, Christmas Lunch for the children and staff and we were delighted that the children were also able to attend the Pantomime in Cheltenham this year.

We had hoped to hold a Christmas disco for the children, but due to the number of positive cases within the Rodmarton community at that time, this had to be cancelled.

At the last minute we had to move our Christmas wreath making from being face to face to a Zoom event. However, despite the very last-minute change of plan, with thanks to Candida Feversham, the night was a huge success and was attended not only by Rodmarton parents, but lots of Rodmarton residents, which was fantastic.

In 2022 we saw the lifting of some Covid restrictions, and we were delighted that we were able to start to plan face to face events again. We were able to hold the Rodmarton Quiz, with our own quizmasters Kate & Rob Tingle. We were kindly gifted a meat hamper, from Jesse Smith’s, which was organised by Christina White. Christina also brought her Tonbo Japanese Kitchen, and very generously donated all profits from the sale of food on the night. The night was very well supported by parents, friends and the teachers of Rodmarton and it was great to be able to be in the same room, enjoying an event altogether.

The committee where excited to be able to bring back Rodmarton’s Got Talent with help from Alex Bransby, Rachel Brennen and Josie Aburrow-Smith. I think everyone who attended would agree, Rodmarton school does have some super talented children and they really did put on a fantastic show for us!

We were very disappointed not to be able to have the Big Late Summer Lunch this year. After such an amazing afternoon last year, we had hoped that this again would be something that was well supported. Unfortunately, due to the lack of ticket sales, we did not feel confident that we could cover the cost of the event and as a charity, it is vital that we can account the monies spent and income made for the school. In the current financial climate, we felt that the event was not viable to run in view of this.

The Treasurer’s Report which follows, gives details of where funds have been spent this year.

Once they have been voted in, I am sure the new committee will have lots of new and exciting ideas but if any parents have their own ideas for ways in which we could fundraise, then please do speak to a member of the committee.

The Friends events are only successful if the school has the help and support of all parents. This not only includes supporting events, but having ideas for fundraising, planning, setting up, volunteering during the event, and the cleaning up after. We do appreciate that parents have busy lives, but the phrase “*many hands make light work”* is most definitely apt when it comes to The Friends events, and I hope that more parents are able to roll up their sleeves and get involved this academic year.

The Friends can also be supported through Amazon Smile, and the many other “cashback” initiatives we have in place, and by setting up a monthly Standing Order to The Friends. Regular income, such as that received from parents’ standing orders is essential. We are registered to receive Gift Aid on all eligible donations, which means we can claim an additional 25p on every £1 donated and this makes a huge difference to our fundraising. A standing order of just £5 per month makes a real impact.

Finally, a thank you to those parents that have supported the The Friends’ committee over the last year. I would also like to say a special thank you to Rachel Brennen, Patricia Collins, Tracey Wysocka and Kate Williams for their help and support whilst I have been a Chair of the Committee.

Danielle Hookham

Chair of The Friends of Rodmarton School