

THE FRIENDS OF RODMARTON SCHOOL

Report from the Chairperson

2022-2023

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a good summer holiday and that your children have settled back into routine at Rodmarton. We offer an especially warm welcome to parents who are new to the school this year.

All parents are automatically members of The Friends of Rodmarton School, our Parent-Teacher Association. The Friends of Rodmarton exists for two main reasons:

1. to raise additional funds for the school
2. to reinforce the school community

It is one year since I assumed the role of Chairperson, with Christina White as Treasurer and Kate Williams, who stayed on as Secretary. As this is my first annual report, I would like to thank the previous committee for donating their time, especially under such challenging circumstances.

Fundraising

Thank you all for the time and money that you have contributed towards our fundraising efforts. Through a combination of regular donations and events, we raised over £15,000, of which almost £12,000 was spent on equipment and facilities to enhance the school and activities to enrich our children's education and experiences. This leaves a surplus of around £3,000 on which to build in this forthcoming academic year 2023-2024.

The autumn got off to a flier, with a raffle which raised over £5k thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses who donated prizes, as well as the efforts of the parents and children to sell the tickets.

After the children enjoyed a Halloween Disco, a few weeks later parents enjoyed a wreath-making evening, led by Candida Feversham. These two events alone raised enough to cover the cost for the children to go to the pantomime at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham.

An advent draw was an exciting way to countdown the four weeks before Christmas and raised £955. After taking into account other Christmas fundraising, the total raised over autumn term (net of expenses) was over £7k.

The early weeks of the New Year are always likely to be challenging in terms of fundraising and events, but Mrs Jones came up with the idea of an art evening, which was a lovely way to spend a winter evening and raised over £500.

Things warmed up after Easter, with a very popular Plant Sale, thanks to Tom & Kat Jackson. A second-hand book sale and second-hand uniform sale also made a valuable contribution, and usefully without any expenses; thank you to those who donated the stock and volunteered their time to sort through it and organise the sales.

The academic year ended with the return of the Big Summer Lunch, which, thanks to fundraising and sponsorship from local businesses, produced a surplus of almost £2k.

Expenditure

While fundraising is important, it is equally important to put the money to good use. The Committee remains in close dialogue with Mr Smith and his colleagues about ways in which the money can be used to enrich the education and experience offered by Rodmarton Primary School. Major items that were funded thanks to the Friends' efforts were an interactive library screen, the Renaissance Reading Programme and various trips that enhanced curriculum topics across all year groups.

For further detail on income and expenditure, please refer to the Treasurer's report.

How to get involved

The current committee has accumulated a year of experience about which events are popular and effective. As well as looking to repeat tried and tested events, we are open to new ideas to keep things fresh and exciting. In particular, we rely on parents stepping forward to volunteer their time to events. Many hands make light work, when it comes to planning, setting up and clearing away.

There are 3 main ways that you can get involved and help build the community at Rodmarton school.

1. A recurring donation via standing order, ideally with Gift Aid
2. Donate your time to helping conceive and execute events
3. Support the events by contributing or attending

We're recruiting!

Thank you to all of you who regularly volunteer; but we welcome new faces with fresh ideas to drive the Friends of Rodmarton forward, either formally on the Committee, or informally on our panel of volunteers. In particular, we are looking for individuals who would be interested in taking on the following roles for a minimum of one year, but ideally two to three to help manage smooth transitions as the Committee changes from year to year.

Vice Chair

This role has been vacant over the past year, but will help expand our collective experience. The Vice Chair will work to encourage volunteer participation, coordinate sub-committees, organise events and deputise in the absence of the Chair or other Committee members. We are looking for an energetic person to invigorate the Committee and liaise between parents, teachers and children.

Raffles and sponsorship officer

Last year, around half of our income was derived from funds raised by reaching out to local businesses for raffle prizes and sponsorship. The sponsorship officer will appeal for prizes, coordinate ticket sales, distribute prizes and thank donors. We are looking for an outgoing and persuasive person to take on this role.

Grants officer

We would like to find someone who likes research and would apply for grants, typically for larger scale projects. This person will work closely with the school and the Friends committee to identify and apply for significant funding from trusts, local authorities and businesses.

Store manager / Second-hand uniform coordinator

We would like to find someone who takes pleasure in having a clear out, sorting and organising the accumulation of clobber, such as decorations, consumables and clothing donations.

Event manager

If any particular events grab your imaginations, we're looking for organised people who can take charge of an event with careful planning, risk assessments, organise bookings and licensing, plan infrastructure (power, lighting, layout etc).

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Friends of Rodmarton and I look forward to the year ahead.

Andrew Kojima

Chair

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