

Friends of Ash Lea School AGM

Chairpersons Report 2020-2021

Date: 5th October 2021

It's been another tough year for all with the ongoing COVID pandemic bring further lockdowns, school bubbles and social distancing measures. Once again FOALS were unable to hold the usual face to face committee meetings and fundraising activities have been minimal. We did however, run a very successful raffle at Easter which we did remotely from school but it worked well and we would definitely do this again in the face of any further restrictions.

The committee for 2020-21 has comprised of Janine Birch-Horn (Chair), Lisa Parker (Treasurer), Rachel Hallam (Secretary), Neil Phipp (School rep), Julia Marshall, Cheryl Potter, Nicola Lindsay, Rebecca Walker and Lauren Doakes.

During the year we raised £2004.53. This will be detailed further in the treasurer's report. The vast majority of this was raised at the Easter Raffle and from the Co Op community fund with small amounts from our Give As You Live donations and workplace employee payroll giving.

The money we raise from our events is always ploughed back into the children. We haven't run any of our usual events this year but instead we have used the money raised to help our children in the classroom. In total we spent £2853.54 on classroom donations. You can see photos of these on our facebook pages (www.facebook.com/friendsofashleaschool). A breakdown of what we purchased is as follows:

- Pine Class – Lots of toys and a sand/water educational table
- Rowan Class – Music frame, washing lines & clothes airer.
- Birch Class – Peanut roll, Vibration Plate and balance disc.
- Beech Class – Trampoline, Peanut roll and switch toy.
- Holly Class – 3 Step-by-step big mac devices, laser disco lights and rotating disco lights.
- Maple Class – 2 x Outdoor music frames with instruments, folding activity arch and wheelchair activity arch.
- Elm Class – Ipad touch and case.
- Cherry class – Giant foam colourful blocks and translucent cube set.

Not all classes applied this time but we have funded equipment for other classes previously too.

As I mentioned above, we took part in the Co Op Community Fund again this year. The donations are going to be used to fund equipment for a special orchestra being run by Mr Shepherd (Maple class) with the hope that all children can take part in and enjoy musical performances. The fundraising round ends in October when we will receive our final donation and will be able to purchase the equipment.

Thank you so much to our committee members who have continued to support FOALS over the last year and continued to attend meetings all be it via zoom. Thank you to the school office for sending out our communications and sorting our raffle tickets/monies when they came into school. Thank you to the parents who continue to support us by buying raffle tickets, attending events and helping out where they can,

Finally, I am announcing my retirement from FOALS this coming year. I will continue as chair until the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. I have held the roles of committee member, treasurer and then chair for the last 11 or 12 years and it is time for me to take a break. I have to say that although we have received some great support from parents this has dwindled over the last few years and not just due to covid. FOALS cannot continue without this support and we desperately need new enthusiastic faces to join the committee to replace our members whose children are leaving the school, or leaving over the next couple of years. If you can spare some time then please contact us, we need you! No skills are necessary, just enthusiasm and a willingness to take part and help out.

Janine Birch-Horn

Chair of FOALS