

The Co-Chair's report 2021

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Wymondham College Prep School (FOWCPS or 'Friends').

The purposes of the Friends is to advance the education of pupils within the school, particularly by developing effective relationships between the staff, parents, and others associated with the school and engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advances the education of pupils.

The primary function of the Friends is to raise funds and our Treasurer Daisy will provide a full update on the financial position shortly, but we would like to start by saying how impressed we have been by the generosity of all of the parents to date. Whether this is financially or with time and effort, the support from the parents and caregivers shows that even in only the schools second year, we already have a wonderful community of people wanting to help achieve our goal of ensuring our children thrive.

If anyone can give any time, no matter how much or little, to support the Friends endeavours please do get in touch via the Facebook page, class WhatsApp chats or by speaking to one of us directly. You don't have to take on a committee role to help out and be a 'Friend'. From baking (or simply donating) cakes for bake sales, to volunteering to help at events put on by the school such as the Open Events for next year's potential Reception intake. All help is appreciated.

Our first ever meeting was held on 5th July 2021 by Zoom, with 11 parents from the inaugural Reception year attending. During this first meeting key roles were allocated and we soon began to realise that a lot of work was required to set up the Friends of including choosing the name! From Charity registration (thank you Charlie for all your amazing help with this), to coming up with a Constitution and several other Policy Documents. Undeterred by the amount of work in front of us, we immediately began thinking about the Events we could plan to start raising funds. Before the term had ended we had organised a raffle and summer picnic for our Covid-interrupted first year of reception children. Since then we have had 5 additional meetings attended by around 11 members each meeting. Minutes are expertly taken by our Secretary, Kelly, to whom we are eternally grateful for her organisational skills and speed! Since then our Events team have worked tirelessly to come up with ideas for events both to raise funds and to ensure the children and parents feel welcomed as part of the school community. Thank you from us to all involved in this side of things. It has been a difficult start to the school year with Covid still dampening our plans, but this has just meant we have all had to be a little more creative in our ideas, and you have all done a fantastic job! Being a brand-new group, has also meant we lacked the initial funds to put on many events, but as we grow both financially and with additional members, we hope to be able to offer a wider variety of events going forwards.

Our main fundraising aim at the moment is for the Forest School/Outside classroom. However, in the Autumn term of 2021 we were able to use some of the funds we had already accrued to put towards some outdoor toys for the playgrounds and an outdoor library. This showed our commitment to providing equipment to support the school and pupils.

We are of course very grateful for the ongoing support and guidance provided by our headmaster Mr. Wilson, the teachers, kitchen and office staff including Mrs Raw.



Finally, a huge thanks to everyone involved in the Friends this year. Your commitment and willingness to contribute has been incredible, and we look forward to building on this with many more exciting plans in the pipeline for the coming months and years! Thank you for your support.