

Friends of Powell's AGM 2018-2019 – Summary Report

We would like to open our report by saying a huge thank you to everyone that has helped and supported our events and activities during the last academic year. We started the year with a brand new committee who brought lots of ideas and energy to build upon the strong foundations set from the previous committee. Our focus was and still is to make FoP even more successful moving forward. We were fortunate to inherit a very healthy bank balance this coupled with a successful fundraising year we have been able to support the school in lots of different areas, some key areas include:

- Playground - As a result of many months looking at the culture of play in the school and recommendations of play consultants coupled with the staff working party the playground plans finally came to life. EYS saw additions of blackboards, a tee-pee, and an outdoor mud kitchen. KS1 was provided with a multifaceted play area including a stage, pirate ship and teepee. The creation zone was created outside the school office and included picnic tables, a marble run and more blackboards.
- KS1 Library & Books - At the beginning of the year FoP helped created a new library area for the KS1 children to enjoy. This is now a lovely area for the children to enjoy reading. We also made a large investment to update the books across both libraries and classrooms.
- One of the more visible additions was the new outdoor class room that was officially opened at the summer fete, this along with the new pathways around the ecopods completed our playground plan for this year.
- We have also supported Groupcall, Athletics, a whole school trip to Giffords Circus, waterproofs for Forest School and equipment for Mr Pottinger to help him keep the large school grounds maintained and looking lovely.
- We also have supported many classroom activities, which we will detail further down.

AUTUMN TERM

Tea and Tissues

We started the year with a welcome coffee morning for Early Years parents on their child's first week of school. We had a great turn out and feedback was very positive, new parents enjoyed the opportunity to meet other parents.

Christmas Fayre

Another hugely successful year for this event, the children had an amazing time and our huge thanks go to Sophie Phillips for organizing the event. Thanks to the ladies from Berkley Court for making so many lovely items for the craft stall. We decided this year to link with the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day and all children had the option to where a festive jumper to school and we donated profit from the cake stall of £110 to the charity. And finally, but most importantly, a huge thank you to John Tiffney for being Father Christmas.

SPRING TERM

Quiz Night

This year we decided to increase the number of tickets to the event, and we had an outstanding response with the event being sold out in 2 days! The event made record profits mainly due to an extremely busy bar! Thanks go to Vicky Ryan and Miles Guerrini for helping to organise the night and to Ian Street for writing and delivering both the quiz and the half-time entertainment!

Spring Disco

This was again hugely popular with both children and parents. Thank you to Karen Langfield, Joelle Whitehead and Lisa Witchell for organising both discos, also thanks to the new shadow team Linzi Gregory and Beth Gilbertson

World Book Day

This year we supported World Book Day by funding for 2 authors to come into the school and run interactive workshops with the children. Tracey Corderoy spent the day with KS1 and John Dougherty ran workshops for KS2. The children dressed up as their favorite character and had the opportunity to get a signed copy of the authors books.

Easter Trail

For Easter we decided to create and run a trail that the family could enjoy over the holidays. Thank you to Preston Rutt for writing the KS1 section and to Sara Leicester for designing the trails. Trail sheets were sold for £2. Each child who submitted a completed trail was rewarded with a small Easter treat along with every child being entered into a prize draw by year to win a number of fantastic prizes that were announced during Gold Book Assembly. We would like to thank local businesses that donated prizes including Rugrats & Halfpints, Jungle Mania, Roves Farm, Cotswold Farm Park, Birdland, Cotswold Wildlife Park and The Model Village.

SUMMER TERM

Parent's Disco

We decided to change the format of the parents disco this year this include changing the time of year, venue and format. The event was hosted at the Ingleside House Hotel with a 007 theme - dress to impress. Tickets were £20 per head and included an arrival drink, BBQ / Pizza buffet and a themed venue. We also ran additional fundraising activities including a casino, photo booth and raffle. Whilst profits were slightly reduced from previous years feedback from the event was very positive and feel word of mouth and a few lessons learnt will ensure this will provide higher income in years to come. We would like to thanks Dan Smith for organising and running the music for the evening.

Summer Fete

This year we were lucky to have the weather on our side again! This helped us generate a magnificent £11,064.13 profit, just short of the year before. We did invest in a few different stalls, the introduction from the Enrichment team, we also changed a few items and decided to utilise the Orchard, where we held a workshop in line with our theme of 'Circus'. This event was well supported by local business with sponsorship and we had a record year of raffle prize donations, over 40 items! There are so many people to thank who make this event from the teachers for their support leading up and on the day, for Mrs Burry who helps organise the displays, to the compere for the event Derek, to Hamptons for printing the programme, to the mass of volunteers who co-ordinate stalls and then the team of volunteers on the day and as we have already said the local business who sponsor the stalls and donate amazing raffle prizes including the generous donation from Dyson of a Hoover.

Sports Day Refreshments; Ice Cream Sales and Open Evening

These three events proved popular with parents and children. Thanks go to Amanda Woodd and friends for helping to organise the Sports Day Refreshments, and to Vicki Mason and team for organising the Ice Cream Sales.

Summer Disco

Our thanks again go to Lisa Witchell, Joelle Whitehead and Karen Langfield and the shadow team for their organisation of the event. This disco is always special as the Y6 are provided additional time at the end with their friends as their final disco of their Powell's years.

Year 6 Leavers Evening

FoP supported the Year 6 Leavers Evening this year. Following the Church service parents and children were welcomed back to the school with refreshments including a glass of Pimms. Whilst this isn't a fundraiser we feel it is a great way to support the families who are soon to leave Powell's and the feedback was very positive from the school and parents.

Race for Life

Our last event of the year was Race for Life. It was such a lovely event to be part of, and a huge thank you goes to all of the teachers for making it run so smoothly. A great achievement for all of the children to complete this, and the look of pride on their faces when they crossed the finishing line and received their medal was brilliant! Having the whole school there supporting each other is lovely to see. Having the year groups run in quick succession this year worked very well. We are very grateful to all parents and grandparents for stewarding the course - the children could not run at this location without this support.

ONGOING

Cake Bakes

The cake bakes have continued to be popular and a great way of the year group to earn money for an activity. A huge thank you to Debbie Forbes who has spent a lot of time ensuring that the sales have all the equipment and help they need to run, as well as counting up the takings at the end. The money last year was used towards Viking Day; Chicks, Space Day, Castle themed event, Seaside day, Cheltenham Music Festival trip, funding for items for residential trips and provided funding various coaches. It is lovely to see the money we have raised being used in such a fun way to enrich the children's learning and experiences as school.

We have reviewed the cost of cakes and think that it is naturally time, plus the cost of the class activities are increasing. 2019-2020 the price will be 40p each or 3 for £1.

Second Hand Uniform

This still proves to be a popular and much needed part of our calendar, we are however looking to change the format this year to make it more accessible to people throughout the year, more details to follow. Thanks to Mell Underwood who has helped organise and co-ordinate the Second Hand Uniform activity.

Rag Bag

The Rag Bag program continues to drip money in over the year, and it tends to run itself.

Easy Fundraising

The few parents that support this scheme allow money to drip in over the year. We need to find ways to remind parents and other family members to use the scheme in their everyday shopping as it could prove to be hugely profitable.

I would like to thank Beth Walker for being my right-hand woman, your guidance throughout our first year has been invaluable. Carly Sutton and Cheri Edwards for helping with the finances and sorting the counts at key events; Beth Gilberston for minute taking and dressing the events to make them look fabulous; Sara Leicester for design all our new artwork for posters and Facebook images; Mrs. Cooper and all of the school staff for their support; Clare Arnold and Claire Jarvis for sending out all of our communications and of course to; James Pottinger for all his help with setting up and clearing away of events.

Finally, the work we do as Friends of Powell's is really important to the school. We are able to provide both money, that allows Powell's to improve facilities and buy additional items, and also the social events that are as important to our children and their social development as they are to us. We thank all parents and families for their continued support of events and fundraising initiatives over this year.