

Friends of Powell's AGM 2019-2020

Summary Report

During the past academic year Covid-19 brought many challenges to everyone and as expected this has impacted Friends of Powell's activities and fundraising efforts. However during this time our focus has remained to maintain the strong foundation of the school PTA. We have done this by introducing new events and looking at innovative approaches to activities and fundraisers. It is crucial to us to ensure the spirit and ethos of FoP's continues ready to reinstate long standing events and traditions, perhaps with a new twist!

We would like to say a *'huge thank you'* to everyone that has helped and supported our events and activities during the last academic year, 2019-2020. We started the year with great ambitions to match or exceed previous fundraising years and introduce some new ideas and events. Whilst our fundraising target has been impacted hugely by Covid-19 we still are proud of the events we did manage to run, the support they obtained and the contributes we were still able to make to school.

Key areas we have supported during 2019-2020 are:

- Books – we have contributed to additional books and funded a class treasure trove which supports the class reader.
- Technology – we were able to contribute 50% towards another new set of iPads along with a 25% contribution to an investment in Win Books
- Communication - we supported the transition from Groupcall to ParentMail, the funding of Accelerator reader and additional licenses,
- Class Activities - prior to the March 2020 we did manage to support many classroom activities, just not as many as we would have liked.
- But not only have we funded activities we have also helped with Operation Clear-up, organising and tidying the DT cupboard – generally being an extra pair of hands when needed.

Here is a summary of the events and activities for 2019-20:

AUTUMN TERM

Tea and Tissues

We started the year in September 2019 with a welcome coffee morning for Early Years families on their child's first week of school. We had a great turn out and feedback was very positive, new families enjoyed the opportunity to meet other families.

Wreath Workshop

At the beginning of December we held a new event, a wreath making evening. Thank you to Beth Gilbertson, Amy Pearcey and Louise Hawkins who co-ordinated and ran the workshop. The event was a huge success with attendees sharing positive feedback and we saw some

great creations. The event contributed just over £600 to our fundraising efforts, a great result and a lovely new festive event to add to our calendar!

Christmas Fayre

Another hugely successful year for this event, the children had an amazing time and we would like to say thank you to Sophie Phillips for organising the event. Thank you to the residents from Berkley Court for making so many lovely items for the craft stall. And finally, a huge thank you to Rhyddian Gilbertson for being Father Christmas.

2020 Calendar

For 2020 we created our first Powell's school family organiser calendar. A very big thank you to the amazing staff who worked with their classes to create great pictures that involved all the class. The pictures were fantastic and enabled us to make nearly £800!

Christmas Carols

We had hoped to hold an informal family Christmas carol sing-along and even had the wonderful Cirencester Singers to lead the event with Hamptons kindly printing the lyrics. Unfortunately, due to the weather the event had to be cancelled. Thank you to Cirencester Singers and Hamptons for their support and efforts preparing for the event and hopefully we can utilise all the hard work in future years.

SPRING TERM

Quiz Night

A very popular event again with tickets selling out within a day or two. Thank you to Maltida Dean and Beth Gilbertson who coordinated the event and to those who supported the kitchen and bar. Thank you to all our cooks who make the yummy chilli and a special thank you to our entertaining quiz master, Ian Street who creates a great atmosphere

Spring Disco

This was again hugely popular with both children and parents. Thank you to Karen Langfield for supporting ticket sales and thank you to Linzi Gregory and Beth Gilbertson for organising the event.

World Book Day

This year we supported World Book Day by match funding money raised from the children's donation to dress up.

Mother's Day Craft Event

A new event and our last face-to-face event of the academic year before Covid-19 guidelines impacted us all. The event was held on a Saturday afternoon and invited children to come along and make gifts and cards for the special person in their life to celebrate Mother's Day.

Easter Jars

We had organised an event to run in classes in the final week before the Easter break, which of course had to be cancelled due to lockdown. The items we bought for this event will be reused for other events.

SUMMER TERM

Covid-19 guidelines meant that our usual summer programme of events were impacted. The following summarises what we did achieve.

Summer 'Fete at Home'

The summer fete is our largest event which is a magnificent day along with being our largest fundraiser by far. When we came up with the idea of a 'fete at home' our objective was to keep in touch with families at the school and try to maintain some fun when so much was being cancelled. We could not have imagined the astonishing support from across the school. We saw families running cake stalls and have a go stalls helping us to raise just over £3600.

We also had some great creations submitted for our fete stall design and are very excited to recreate Harry Smith's, Y4 (now Y5) aeroplane themed stall in 2021.

Virtual Summer Disco

In the same guise as the Fete we didn't want to take another event away from the children so decided to hold a virtual disco for a suggested donation. Thank you to Beth Gilbertson and Linzi Gregory for organising the event which was well attended.

Year 6 Leavers

The Y6's final months of Primary School was quite different to how it should have been, but we continued to support the school to make those days memorable. We supported their leavers bibles, an ice cream van on their final day and a goodie bag to wish them well as they left school.

Postponed / Cancelled Events

- Parent's Disco – postponed to May 2021
- Race for Life - cancelled
- Sports Day Refreshments - cancelled

Note there are deposit payments which we have accounted for that will transfer to rescheduled dates.

ONGOING

Cake Bakes

We managed to run the cake bakes for Y5, Y4, Y3 and Y2. Although we couldn't complete all year groups, the events still made £560 bringing the average cake sale up by approximately £30 per sale on previous years. Thank you to Debbie Forbes who has spent a lot of time ensuring that the sales happen, have all the equipment and help they need to run, as well as counting up the takings at the end.

The money from the cake bakes goes directly back to the year group to fund additional fun activities to support their learning such as, Space Day, coaches to enable school trips to be affordable. 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.

In 2019-20 we reviewed the cost of cakes to 40p each or 3 for £1.

Second Hand Uniform

Thank you to Mell Underhill who has spent much time organising the uniform donations and sales. Mell also had begun to work with the Eco Warriors to help with our sales. We did manage to run the sales prior to March and then a larger socially distant sale in September 2020. The sales made just shy of £420 which is more than double that of previous years. Great to fundraiser, but more importantly supported the need to reuse, recycle and reduce.

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. Uptake isn't that high therefore we are reviewing other schemes for 2020-21.

THANK YOU'S

We would like to thank our colleagues on the committee Carly Sutton and Cheri Edwards for helping with the finances and sorting the counts at key events; Beth Gilberston and Linzi Gregory for administration support, ensuring our communications are in all relevant channels and their efforts organising and supporting events. Thank you to Sara Leicester for designing all our artwork for posters and Facebook images.

Thank you to Mrs. Cooper and all of the school staff for their support; Clare Arnold and Claire Jarvis for their support and 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.

Sarah and Beth
Co-Chairs of Friends of Powell's