

Friends of Fir Bank

2015-2016

Friends of Fir Bank had a very good financial year, raising almost £2000 in profits. This has been achieved through organizing events, that are known to work well for pupils and parents alike.

The group consists of three core people and is supported by further volunteers during events. We have had great support from Mrs. McKay and all the teachers, for which we are very grateful. A special thank you also goes to Mrs. Bunting and Mrs. Millar who have been very supportive with the administration of ticket sales and communication between the group and the school. A big thank you goes to Steve Kirkland for being such a big help in setting up the events.

Highlights

The year started off well with a private donation of £500, sponsoring the Halloween Disco.

Like in previous years the Christmas Market and the Summer ball have been the most successful events in terms of participation and funds raised.

The Christmas Market is very popular because the children get to see Santa. We did not invite external stall holders this time, because we felt that they earned very little from the event.

The tables that were hosted by each class were a great success though. Everybody made a tremendous effort. The snowmen were a big sell out in particular. That atmosphere at the event was great with people enjoying drinks and a piece of pie.

In May we repeated the Bags for School fundraising event and we were very grateful for the many donations of clothing that had been received.

The children enjoyed the Summer Ball and the Oscar nominations. The weather had let us down this year, which meant we had to cancel the bouncy castle and limited space for parents to socialize. We swapped the chocolate tombola for a soft toy tombola which worked very well. We do apologise for the heartache caused to the smaller children, when they donated their beloved teddies.

The raffle prizes were outstanding and I would like to give a big thank you to Lucy Reynolds for pursuing potential donors tirelessly.

Feedback from parents suggested, that they enjoyed the social atmosphere and that there should be more of these type of events.

Next time we will be using the new sound system in the hall to keep better control of the games etc.

At the end of the school year we started the Fir Bank 100 Club, a lottery that potentially could raise quite a large amount money for the school. We are counting on the support from parents, teachers and the wider community to make this a success.

This year we have change the bank account to NatWest in Royton, which makes banking a lot easier. We have also set up a face book page to reach a wider community of parents.

Lowlights

We have lost a few regular members of the group due to other commitments, which makes it more difficult to juggle the workload between the few of us.

Spending & banking

Spending

Contribution to Visits/Visitors 1400.00

This is our biggest spending item, which may not be very visible in physical terms, but through this contribution we can ensure that all the planned trips can happen and don't need to be cancelled due to lack of funding. Trips and special events are such an enrichment to the children's learning and it is great to hear the excited stories when they come back from somewhere they have not been to before.

Sports leader kit 124.69

The sports leader kit is given to children in year 6 which take part in the sports leader program. The kit helps them establish their identity as sports leader and gives them recognition.

We have been in discussion with the school council via Mrs McKay and will put future spending on items that the children ask for. There is a wish for a play gym for the playground. The price for good quality equipment of this type is about £10,000.00, therefore we need to consider how to achieve this. Any ideas from parents are more than welcome.

Income

Halloween Disco	233.95
Christmas Tea Dance	782.22
Christmas Afternoon	284.50
Valentine Disco	339.10
Summer Ball	956.06
Donation:	500.00
Music evening	134.48
Bags 2 school	75.20

Outlook 2016-17

We will continue with the same events that we hold every year. We do review events regularly to make them better and to take feedback into account. We feel, that if we can get more help with planning and preparations the events could be enhanced.

We hope that the 100 Club will take off with many more parents joining.

Finally I would like to thank everybody involved with the PTA for their continued support. I also want to thank parents for their generosity and would like to urge you to pop in at the next meeting

Janett Morton
Chair – September 2016