FROGS Chair’s Report 2024

Thank you all for coming to the AGM for the last academic year, 2023-2024.

This will be Claire and my last AGM as joint chair, as we intend to step down at the meeting today to make way for a new committee who can guide the charity in new and exciting directions! We have had a few nominations to fill the committee positions, so we are really hopeful that this will be the start of a new and exciting era for the FROGS dream team!

Income:

We have had a slightly quieter year in terms of fundraising activities this year.

The school staff did a brilliant job of organising a Christmas fair and school Christmas cards at the beginning of the academic year, which was enjoyed by all of the children and adults alike.

We’ve also had the continual trickle of income from online shopping via the Easingfundraising/ The Giving Machine/Amazon Smile Apps or websites, and the Rag Bag clothes collection bin in the pub car park. Thank you to everyone who has donated clothes or signed up to the Easyfundraising scheme, and an even bigger Thank you to those of you who remember to access your usual shopping websites via the App or web page and regularly manage to generate donations from their online shopping. It is o=worth noting that most online grocery stores donate £3 every time you buy your weekly groceries online via the Easyfundraising app, and the new smartphone reminder function means that you will always be prompted to access any compatible website through the app so you will never miss a donation!

Our biggest income for this year however was a large gift aid repayment (£8565!!) for the large donations we have received over the past few years, which Claire worked tirelessly to make happen before the looming deadline, so a huge thank you to her for persevering with that task!

Expenditure:

The children have had the opportunity to enjoy some exciting visitors in school, including one for their Maya topic, and a few trips to Bolton Castle, Ripon Cathedral, and class 1 went to Nosterfield.

We also bought a new laptop battery and smart board, and well as some new reading books.

Each class also got money to purchase a class Christmas present, which usually includes a communal game or additional craft supplies.

New classroom project:

Since the build costs for the new classroom have increased considerably since our initial quotes several years ago, we no longer have enough in our charitable account to fund this project. The school governors therefore need to decide on the future viability of this project. We have moved the money we have raised so far for this (£60k) into a high interest savings account while the school decide on the future of this project.

Concluding statement:

Once again, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all those parents who have assisted with the planning and running of all of our events over the last 7 years. And, of course, a massive thank you to all the parents, grandparents, carers, neighbours, friends, teachers and TA’s who support, sponsor, have donated and contributed to our events while I have had the privilege of acting as chair.

FROGS is so much more than just a method of raising essential funds for the school. It is a way of helping parents to feel more connected with their children’s education, whilst also playing an essential role in strengthening relationships within the school and local community.

I am really looking forwards to seeing what new and exciting avenues our new committee will lead us down over the next academic year. The renewed enthusiasm and ideas of a new committee will really help to reinvigorate our community and fundraising efforts. I truly believe that if we continue to work together, with each of us contributing in our own way, we can continue to achieve amazing things to the benefit of our children and the entire school community.

Thank you for letting Claire and I be a part of it all: We’ve had a blast!