



Friends of Appleton C of E Primary School AGM Chair's Report 2020/2021

November 2021

Date of previous AGM: 28th January 2021 (*noting the date: the meeting was postponed from the end of 2020 due to the pandemic.*)

Welcome to the Friends of Appleton School (PTA) AGM 2021.

The PTA at Appleton Primary School is called the Friends of Appleton School. We are a registered charity (no. 1024450). The aim of the Friends is to fundraise for the school and to foster a community amongst parents/carers, and indeed those from the wider community who wish to support the school. The funds we raise are used to purchase resources that the school might not otherwise be able provide, within the government set budget. This could be anything from books, maths equipment and computers to school trip transport and outdoor play equipment.

All parents/carers, teachers and TAs are automatically members of the Friends and the association is run by a committee of volunteers, elected each year at the AGM. The AGM is the only formal meeting of the year for the Friends and deals with the formalities of committee elections, financial reviews and plans for the future. Before we launch into these formalities, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank my fellow serving Friends committee members and class representatives, for their hard work, dedication and commitment:

Secretary: Laura Olver

Treasurer: Lucinda la Velle

Teacher liaison: Helen Barker

Planners:

Elspeth Briscoe

Gabs Brown

Lise Price

Rebekah White (Welfare Co-Ordinator)

Class reps (2020/21):

FS – Elspeth Briscoe and Rosie Taylor

Y1 – Laikin Cheah and Laura Olver

Y2 – Laikin Cheah and Laura Olver

Y3 – Caroline Lomas and Gemma Lovatt

Y4 – Marie-Lyse Connelly

Y5 – Kerrie Gaughn

Y6 – Tasha Cooper and Stevie Biltcliffe

The AGM will be a chance for new and existing members to be (re)-elected on to the committee for this academic year, 2021/22. I am really pleased to say that the class reps for 2021/22 are:

FS – Rachael Nicol and Dodi Tasker

Y1 – Rebekah White and Hannah Goodlad

Y2 – Sophie Evans and Vicki Bushnell

Y3 – Laikin Cheah and Laura Olver

Y4 – Rebekah White and Sarah Daley

Y5 – *vacant*

Y6 – Kerrie Gaughn

I would also like to thank Liz Mortimer and Leanne Paul for their support from the school office, as we frequently add to their already busy workload with our requests and ideas. And of course, a huge thank you to all of the parents, carers, grandparents, neighbours, friends, teachers and TAs who support, sponsor, donate and contribute to our fundraising and events.

Important note regarding in-person events

With regard to the pandemic, this last year and a half has obviously been a very difficult time for everyone and the restrictions have meant that the Friends have not been able to fundraise in the same way, or to the same degree as we usually do. We have not been able to hold an in-person event since March 2020 and *the school has requested that this remains the case* until we see a more stable situation in the course of 2022. That said, I would like to give an overview of the Friends fundraising, events and spending that *did* happen during the 2020/21 academic year.

Events and fundraising

Let's get interactive! June/July 2021

We raised over £15,000 together. Parents, carers, grandparents, governors, the wider community and local businesses all supported our 'Let's get interactive' campaign, to provide each classroom with a new interactive whiteboard.

The use of a standalone website (www.friendsofappletonschool.co.uk), proved very useful, particularly for outside community – it was a place that donors could go to, to find out all the information they needed. The Friends Committee also sent out regular updates and sent 'thank you' letters to every donor.

Let's get interactive! Campaign Financial Summary

DONATIONS RECIEVED:

Virgin Money Giving (including Gift Aid and fees deducted)	£8,825.57
Donations via BACS & Stewardship (no gift aid collected)	£6,230.00
Donations via Paypal (no gift aid collected)	£98.40

Total income:	£15,153.97
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EXPENSES:

Website domain & hosting (12 months)	£50.17
Virgin Money joining fee (reimbursed after VM closed)	£0.00

Total expenses:	£50.17
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Fundraising total	£15,103.80
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On-line shopping with Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile

Thanks to everyone who shops on-line through Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile, we received £230.64 over the academic year 2020/21. This is a useful passive income stream! It is worth the occasional reminder to parents/carers to use these payment gateways when they can.

School clothes bank

The school now has a clothes bank and the Friends receive money for the clothes donations. A flyer was sent out to promote this initially. It is worth sending reminders.

Spending (highlights)*October 2020*

- As per the annual tradition, each class teacher was given £100 to spend on resources for their classes. This is a really useful 'extra' for them. This sum of money is normally raised by the half-termly cake sales.

March 2021

- The Friends contributed £2,600 for 8 new picnic benches for outdoor learning and lunches. These benches have a 25-year guarantee and can seat 6-8 children. This money was raised thanks to everyone's generous fundraising help, contributions and donations over the last few years.

July 2021

- As discussed in the previous section, funds raised in the 'Let's get interactive!' campaign, meant the Friends were able to fund a new interactive whiteboard for each class. These were installed in September 2021. This campaign was hugely successful owing to the support from school children, parents, carers, grandparents, all the school governors, villagers, charitable trusts and local businesses, SCB Oxford Ltd and Swim School of Oxfordshire. Thank you again.

Financial summary for the period 31st August 2020 – 31st August 2021 (financial operating period of the charity)

Bank Balance 31/08/2020	£10,010.21
INCOME:	
Christmas craft morning & teacher gift donations	£1,367.58
Parish council donation	£570.00
Astra Recycling (on-site clothes bank)	£52.60
Easy Fundraising	£169.07
Amazon Smile	£61.57
Let's get interactive campaign (*of funds received before 31/08/2021)	£14,336.22
Total income:	£16,557.04
SPENDING:	
Picnic benches	£2,600.00
Class contributions (for resources)	£1,270.00
Virtual Christmas pantomime screening 2020	£90.00
Christmas craft morning & auxiliary staff gifts (Christmas & summer)	£1,533.41
2 Chromebooks	£760.00
ParentKind Membership	£110.00
Contributions to staff leaving gifts (summer 2021)	£130.00
School noticeboard refurbishment	£14.99
PGL Coach	£320.00
Interactive whiteboards and stands	£14,215.00
Wildflower seeds	£68.50
LGI website hosting & domain	£50.17
Total spending:	£21,343.07
Bank Balance 31/08/2021	£5,224.18

Future plans and targets

We are still working with the school on the funding priorities for the year ahead (2021/2022). Here is a summary of activity since September 2020.

Area	Item	Approx. cost	Note
IT	Replacement for IWBs across the school.	£14,500	Each class received a new interactive whiteboard in September 2021, thanks to the amazing support given to our 'Let's get interactive!' campaign in June/July 2021. See earlier in report for more info.
Outdoor resources	Picnic benches for outdoor learning and lunches	£2,600	This was a request from Mrs Carnell at the beginning of March. The Friends have researched and got quotes for recycled plastic junior picnic benches. These have a 25-year guarantee and can seat 6-8 children. The cost shown is for 8 of these benches.
Classroom resources	Additional general resources	£700	This is an annual payment to be used at the discretion of the class teacher. £100/class. The 2020/2021 academic years' payment was made in October 2020.
General	Recurring annual costs: trip transport etc.	£1,200	
IT	Chromebooks	£760	During the second stint of home learning (Jan-Mar 2021), the school Governors put together an appeal and amazingly funded the purchase of 10 Chromebooks. The Friends were able to provide funding for two of these.
IT	iPad for each class	£2,500	This would be for each class teacher – currently this resource is shared, which is not ideal.
Maths resources	Counters, coins, Numberstacks etc.	£170	Purchased using kind donation from the Parish Council.
Pastoral	Board games	£50	Purchased using kind donation from the Parish Council.
Books	Refresh class libraries	£350	Purchased using kind donation from the Parish Council.

As for social and in-person events, we will have to wait and see what the future holds, but it will be as important as ever to foster our school community and regain that connection, when we are able to do so.

Finally, as the incumbent committee step down, I speak for all of us when I thank everyone for their continued support over the last two years. Good luck to the new committee.

Rosie Taylor

Chair – Friends 24/11/2021.