

FRIENDS OF PATERNOSTER CHAIRMANS REPORT

AGM 7/2/23

Welcome to the first face to face AGM in 3 years.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the FOPS is to organise fundraising events and activities for the school. We also access funding through grant applications on behalf of the school if required. It is also an opportunity for parents to meet, get to know one another and provide support.

COMMITTEE

We have an elected committee who manage all aspect of the FOPS on a day to day basis.

Current committee

Chair: Emma Sutton initially and then shared between committee members

Secretary: Rachael Fletcher

Treasurer: Jamie Nesbitt

From a FOPS perspective, we continued most of our catch ups on Zoom this year, and then started hybrid meetings at school and over Zoom as school began to reopen to visitors. It was so lovely to be able to visit again after such a long absence.

The FOPS has welcomed this year, Sheryl Suzanne, Parent Support Worker, Lynette Frances-Fuchs and Andrew McDougall, Community Members and Jennie Laird, Paternoster School's New Head.

We've also said goodbye to some of our existing members. Thank you to parents Elizabeth Uttley and Emma Kay for your support.

From the Committee perspective there is also great changes happening. After many years of supporting the FOPS the current team of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer have decided now is the right time to step down from these roles. Thank you so much to Emma Sutton and Jamie Nesbit for supporting the FOPS and school for some many years. I have been Secretary for 7 years and have been thrilled to provide support to Paternoster, a school that will always have a special place in my heart. However, I do think it's time to bring in new blood, encouraging existing parents at the school to take the lead, hence why I am also standing down.

I'd also like to say a thank you to Annette Fidderman who has been Head at Paternoster for the last 4 years. Her commitment to the school has been outstanding as well as her support for the FOPS.

SUMMARY OF THE LAST YEAR

I think everyone will agree it has been another challenging year as we eased ourselves out of Covid lockdown restrictions.

Our challenges this year have centred around encouraging new members to join the FOPS and support the fundraising efforts. We are really pleased to see new faces and welcome them all. As we mentioned at a recent coffee morning organised by Sheryl, the FOPS is more than just a fundraising committee. It's a way for parents to connect outside the normal routines and provide each other with support. I hope the new team will make it their own and ensure it continues to thrive.

As Jamie's Treasurer's report will outline we haven't been able to arrange any fundraising events this year due to Covid and reduced FOPS numbers. However, as we have an existing balance of £20,038, this didn't cause the committee any concern. Our focus has been on moving forward with the planned improvements to the school and using these funds.

Our plans to provide a changing facility adjacent to the playground is in full swing. Access has been introduced at the side of the sports hall and plans are under way for a new hoist system. This will mean that when the playground is open during term time and in the school holidays, children will have easy access to the toilet.

I was particularly thrilled to be asked to open the playground with the school president in December. I hope many of you were able to join us on the day and had the opportunity to see what the playground looks like (even through the foot of snow that had fallen!) My husband and I were so moved to see the playground named in memory of our late son, William who was a pupil at Paternoster. He absolutely loved the school and it was the making of him. I hope this playground will give all your children and others that follow so much joy.

Unfortunately for the third year running we have been unable to support a Spring Fayre due to Covid. We will need to review the time of the Fayre but it is possible that we will be able to hold this in 2023.

FOCUS FOR 2023/2024

One of the focuses this year will be the early years playground. This needs a new cover and equipment. It is something that the charity Pied Piper would be interested in supporting and we will hopefully be able to make an application once costings have been provided by school.

It would also be great to introduce more plants in the sensory garden in the Spring. If anyone is keen on gardening it would be great to set up a smaller committee to work with the school on this project.

Lastly, the school continues to want to fence off the grassed area behind the sports hall. However there are challenges as Historic England will not allow fence posts in the ground towards the rear of the area, due to the remains of a Roman wall that lies underneath. Discussions continue to find a solution to this problem as this field would be fabulous for the children to play in, if it was made secure.

This concludes the Chairman's report for 2022/2023.

Rachael Fletcher

2/2/23

