

Friends of English Martyrs

Registered charity No. 1105802

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 4th October 2018 at 7pm

English Martyrs CVA, Willow Crescent, Oakham, LE15 6EH

Chairperson's report 2017/2018

Introduction

I am pleased to present my first annual report as Chair of FEM. We have had another successful year in terms of money raised, having organised a wide range of events that have been well supported.

Financial headlines

We began the academic year with an aim to raise £6000 and, as the Treasurer's report will detail, we successfully achieved this with our fundraising making a profit of £6164. This has enabled us to support the school in a variety of ways, including providing additional funding towards the astro turf, £1500 for essential school resources and finally £3000 for new ICT equipment to be purchased imminently. In addition, we have continued our commitment to subsidise an end of year trip/activity for every child.

Events & Initiatives

During the year we have held eight FEM events (Cakes Sales, Discos, Fairs, Bingo & Quiz Night). The cake sales proved very successful and the Easter Bingo was particularly popular with the children. Unfortunately, the Quiz Night was not as well attended as previous by the parent body. Both the Christmas and Summer Fairs were well supported and profits were boosted by Hambleton kindly providing the BBQs. The Summer Fair Raffle was especially successful thanks to the efforts of Mrs Greenfield.

In addition to these events, we also ran competitions for the children (Christmas Model competition, Smartie Tube challenge, Easter Treasure hunt, How does your garden grow art competition). Mrs Thomas was a key instigator of these activities with the treasure hunt proving particularly popular.

The Friday morning cake raffle has raised almost £500 thanks to the efforts of Mrs Brooks and all the people who made cakes. The 2nd hand uniform rail has continued to provide a much needed resource for parents thanks to the work of Mrs Tinkler.

The 200 club is gradually gaining new members and remains well supported by the parishioners. More could be done, however, to promote and recruit new members as membership is only at 131.

Aspirations & Plans

During this last year, we have been delighted to see the creation of the all-weather pitch that is now an invaluable outside space for all the children. This represents a fantastic fundraising achievement by FEM as we spent over a year fundraising towards the cost of this resource.

We are now keen to focus on other aspects of the school's outside space, especially the back playground and associated outdoor equipment. The Early Years playground is also in much need of rejuvenation and the school is looking for ways to fund this.

The school is in desperate need of funding for new ICT equipment as budget constraints are significantly limiting the monies available. We have therefore already committed £3000 towards new tablets and cases but further equipment is needed if the school is to be able to deliver the full curriculum to our children. We therefore hope to be able to provide further funding towards ICT by the end of this academic year.

We intend to continue subsidising the cost of one trip for every child each year as we feel this ensures every family receives a direct benefit from FEM. It also enables the school to consider a broader range of options for trips as costs are reduced for parents.

The purpose of FEM is varied: it raises money for our school, provides varied social opportunities, forges links between the school, parish and the

community and aims to support pupils and their families. I feel we have been very successful with respect to raising money and we are now working towards improving support and links. This is why we would like to find someone to act as a Social Secretary to look for ways to bring the FEM community together in a social, supportive way without a focus on fundraising. Maintaining good links with the Parish is very important and I would like to thank Mrs Slattery and Mrs McGrory for their liaison work over the past year.

Thank you

We would not operate with the support of a great many people:

Thank you to Mrs Chambers and all the staff of English Martyrs, especially Mrs Emmerson and Mrs Valiente, Mr Tranmer and Mr Hodgson.

Thank you to all the pupils, parents, carers, grandparents, staff and parishioners for attending and supporting events

A special thank you to all the people who volunteer and give up their time to help out at events.

Finally, at last, a big thank you to my fellow committee members for all their enthusiasm, commitment, ideas, support and hard work over the past 12 months. I will now admit that I have enjoyed the challenge of being Chair and am happy to be Chair again next year if elected.

I wish the new committee all the best for the forthcoming year.

Emma Potter

Chair of FEM