

Friends of English Martyrs F.E.M

Registered charity No. 1105802

Annual General Meeting Friday 4th March November 2022 at 9:15am

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

Chairperson's report 2020/2021

Welcome everyone and thank you for coming to this morning's AGM. The object of FEM is to enrich our children's school experience. We do this by fundraising through organising fun events both in and outside of school for the children and grown-ups, as well as creating a social network of members.

INTRODUCTION

Afternoon all, my name is Caroline Thomas and I am pleased to present my second annual report as Chair of FEM. Well with more lockdowns and the need for social distancing/ class bubbles and no adults being allowed into school, you would be forgiven to think we hadn't raised a penny within the year. With the committee running their own businesses, home-schooling, taking on more hours at work, and 11 children between us, I could not be prouder and more thankful of those who stood on the committee with me, you really do "make it happen".

FINANCIAL HEADLINES

Ordinarily we aim to raise in the region of £5-6k, but last year we did not set a target, given the unknown position we were in to raise any funds or have events. If we were able to raise in the region of £3k like the previous year, we would have been happy. The treasurer's report will detail how we successfully achieved raising funds and surpassed that slightly. We had spent most of the funds last year, so spending has been small, but we have secured the majority of it for a new shade and post for the field, which we as parents believe is so important, especially after the field lost the large tree. We have also been able to subsidise school trips, fund the circus skills workshop and agreed recently to fund new iPads as those within school are now slow and dated.

Events & Initiatives

During the year we were not able to hold any open events for the school community, but the friends of English Martyrs showed their support to every small fundraiser we could put on.

The 200 club as always remained well supported and hopefully we can increase membership with newer members of school. It is a great fundraiser and a good link with the parish, and I must make a huge thank you to Emma Potter as always for having ran and administer all the paperwork for the monthly draws. This role she handed over recently to Vanessa Seddon, so a huge thank you to her also, for offering her time and skills. Fingers crossed for a further £100 win for me.

Pre loved uniform was ran by partly by myself and Lynsey Payne last year, so thank you to her for making this available to parents via Facebook, giving uniform a second life, making it affordable for parents and keeping it from landfill.

The main sources of income during the past year for us, were the Christmas hampers and the Summer Raffle. These are easy, fun events to run and for the new committee to continue. The committee managed to source some amazing prizes for the summer raffle and took the plunge to buy a high value item as a first prize incentive for the children to get behind it also. This had the desired effect and the excitement of the possibility of winning a Nintendo Switch could be heard around school. Even with this large outlay we raised a total of £1445 profit.

Having classes in bubbles saw the committee have to run three separate disco nights. These were loud, fun and saw nearly every pupil within school jumping around to Kidzco beats. A massive thanks to Disco Steve, a FEM member.

Aspirations & Plans

Yet again we had a disrupted year for all at the school, staff, children and parents. Our plans for this coming year are to include the community if we are able again and ensure fun is at the forefront of everything we do.

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. It is the aim and aspiration of FEM to support the school and the wider community in any way we can to ensure the education and experience the children have whilst in their care is the best it can possibly be.

We are still keen to focus on ICT development for the next academic year of fundraising and have ringfenced banked funds for a shade to be installed in the spring. A further meeting with school and the committee will collectively see what further funds are required.

FEM 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.

We would not operate without the support of a great many people: Thank you to Mrs Chambers and all the staff of English Martyrs, especially Mrs Valiente, who has assisted to enable many events to be contactless, sends out endless parent mail messages for us and always does everything with a smile and an attitude of 'what more can I add'. Thank you to all the pupils, parents that have donated their time and prizes. 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. It has been a difficult year and one where all of us have found ourselves with less spare time on our hands, so to raise the money we have under the circumstances is one we should all be proud of.

The decision to step down, has not been taken lightly. Having been a committee member for the past four years and often finding myself working 50hrs plus weeks, I have found myself unable to dedicate the time required to lead a committee into a further year.

I am very passionate about the school and the community within it, being part of FEM has given me the opportunity to get to know the school and the children within it better. Since joining I've realised that I get a huge satisfaction from seeing the children's smiling faces at our events and when

we are able to provide new items and experiences. I can only assure the next committee it's so emotionally rewarding and makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Caz Thomas

Chair of FEM