



Chair report 2019/20

This has been an interesting first year for Friends of Dove Bank, who would have known after the first meeting just over a year ago and formation of this new group, how the year would turn out!

An enthusiastic and motivated group of parents came together in September to work together to fundraise for the pupils of Dove Bank, supported by Mitzi Moran, Mr Cheesman and Mrs Davies. There were formalities that we needed to work through, a committee with elected members formed and registered with the Parent Kind. We set out our Mission Statement and a steady recruitment of volunteers.

Right from the start there was lots of motivation and ideas. We managed to arrange our first event in a truly short time scale and a successful Halloween disco went ahead! After this we were onto a bigger project... the Christmas Fair! We had a nice mix of activity with external stall holders, school choir, children's games, food and drink, a visit from Santa and the popular tombola and raffle. It was a great night with a real Christmassy atmosphere in the hall. We had lots of support and positive feedback. Added to this we ran a raffle at Reception classes nativity play.

We were then into January and starting to plan 2020 our first event being a PJ and Popcorn night which thankfully we were able to continue with, but the much-anticipated Chocolate Bingo was cancelled and sadly our hopes of a Vintage Summer Fair were dashed. The committee knew then that we had to think out of the box and started to focus on non-event fundraising – signing up to Stampstastic and Easy Fundraising and continuing to investigate Clothes recycling and pre-loved clothing sales in the hope to continue bringing in funds for the school.

Despite the setbacks of 2020 we have to date raised £1200 to enable us to provide equipment for the school. It is hoped that we can purchase some items this Autumn term and decide what the next items are that we are aiming for.

As chair I was invited along to new starter Parents evening in the summer term and able to share the group vision and how parents can get involved.

Reflecting on the year, despite the challenges that COVID has brought, we have done an incredible job. The coming school year we will be focusing on some non-event fundraising along with events that can be ran in the class bubbles. As time goes on if it is felt that events can be organised, we will look to working with the school to do this in the safest possible way. One of the roles that I feel that we are missing is a grants officer who can support us in seeking out grants for specific items for the school and perhaps a role we can look to over the coming months.

I would like to thank the committee for their enthusiasm and commitment, Mr Cheesman and all the staff who have helped and supported us, Mrs Howard who has provided additional secretarial support in ensuring that all communications went out to parents/carers and the Governing Body who supported the formation of a Friends Group. I would like to thank all the volunteers whom without your help and support we would not have been able to run the events. I would like to thank all of those who baked for us, made for us and provided prizes for the Christmas Fair, the co-op and Pall-Ex. The support and generosity from all involved are immense and very much appreciated.

I look forward to the coming year and raising funds for our children to support their learning and enriching their education.

Rachel Cox
Chair 2019/20