

Chair's report 2021/22
28 September 2022

Good evening and thank you for attending our AGM. I would like to start by extending my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone that has volunteered and supported FOBS over the past year. Covid has continued to add an extra challenge to our attempts to raise funds for the school, but despite this extra hurdle on top of all the usual challenges facing busy families, we have been able to run some great events. Our highlights have included the inaugural walking nativity at Christmas, the school summer fair, rounders evening and, another first, the summer pub walk in conjunction with Treetops Nursery and Lydford Primary School. We also boosted our fundraising with Rudolph Christmas cards, Big PTA raffles and by holding pop-up cafes and ice cream sales in the playground.

One focus of our activity has been to raise funds to improve the environmental area, and to this end we were extremely pleased to be able to provide some of the materials required for the construction of the forest school shelter. FoBS funds have also been spent on items to enhance the classrooms including plants, cushions and a rug. FoBS funds have also been used to help pay for buses to transport children to their school trips, and also to their swimming classes in the spring term. The cost of coach hire has increased significantly over the past couple of years, so by helping to provide transport it keeps the trips more affordable for families. We have carried on the tradition of providing book bags to our new owlets to help welcome them to our school, and also contribute towards the leaver's hoodies to the children we said goodbye to at the end of the summer term.

We have lots of exciting plans for the upcoming year. The barn dance that we unfortunately had to postpone back in February due to covid, has been rescheduled for next Friday, 7th October and we are all very much looking forward to it. Several events from last year were so popular we are planning to run them again, including the walking nativity, the school fair, the joint summer pub walk and the ever popular rounders night. There will also be all the usual raffles, cake sales and pop-up cafes throughout the year that we know and love, to boost the coffers further.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers and all the staff at Bridestowe for the work they do making the school feel so warm, welcome and fun! Thank you in particular for your enthusiastic participation in the school summer fair, which was such a great success and would not have been the same without you.

Thank you also to all the parents that give up their time to make our fundraising attempts successful. As each year rolls around we naturally lose some of our much valued volunteers as their children leave the school or their personal circumstances change, but the flip side of this is that we are gaining potential new helpers all the time. We need to make sure that new parents are aware of what we do and feel welcome and valued. I would particularly like to encourage more dads to come and join in with meetings and planning - don't leave it all to the mums, please get involved where you can! Our communications have moved increasingly online and to reflect this I have proposed as part of this evening's agenda we discuss the possibility of

creating a new committee role, so that someone is a particular point of contact for our social media and online activity.

I look forward to planning lots of exciting events for this year, but in the meantime I will hand over to our treasurer Ali Lane for her report on last year's finances. Thank you for listening.

Kirstie Floyd-Walker
Chair of FoBS 2021/22