

## FTDS Chairs Report - AGM 21<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The Friends of Tannery Drift First School (FTDS) is a registered charity run by a Committee which is elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. Committee members are also Trustees along with Anna Greetham, Head Teacher.

The Named Committee members/Trustees for 2019/20 were: Anna Greetham - Head Teacher, Paula McQueen – Chair, Claire Khodabukus - Secretary, Emma Harding - Treasurer and Vanessa Lobbezoo – Vice Treasurer. The wider FTDS membership was made up of a dedicated group of parents and teachers. In addition to this FTDS have an active helpers list who regularly volunteer to help at events.

The objectives of FTDS as stated in the constitution are:

1. Raise money to fund projects, equipment or facilities that will enhance school life for Tannery Drift children and that would not otherwise be funded i.e. by the LEA
2. To organise fund raising or cost neutral events that are fun for the children/parents of Tannery Drift School

Any staff member is able to make an application for FTDS funding. Previously request forms have been available in the staff room to be completed and approved by Anna Greetham before being passed to FTDS members. The application process is currently being reviewed to reduce the use of physical paperwork.

To encourage teaching staff to make applications, £250 has previously been annually allocated per class to spend on enrichment activities or resources which they would not otherwise be able to fund. In 2020/21 with our ability to fundraise greatly reduced we will not be allocating funds to classes, however teachers will still be able to make applications to FTDS, subject to Mrs Greetham's approval.

In deciding what activities and equipment to fund, FTDS ensures they comply with the main objectives of the charity as highlighted above, as well as the guidance issued by the charity commission. Funding decisions are made by FTDS members discussing and voting upon applications at the FTDS meetings (held half termly). Currently meetings are being held via Zoom. Where there are time restrictions and a meeting is not imminent, decisions are made via the FTDS members private Facebook group. In the Summer term, FTDS members demonstrated the ability to rigorously explore requests via the Facebook group in a productive way.

2019/20 was a successful year for FTDS with a variety of well supported events and activities taking place in the Autumn, Spring and even Summer terms, raising a total of £5275.

FTDS events and activities are about more than just fundraising and we are mindful of making them accessible and enjoyable for all our children/families. During lockdown FTDS continued to explore ways of offering positive activities/experiences to our families through; free Father's Day craft activity sheets, Summer craft packs (£5 each, free packs were given to those receiving FSM & could be requested confidentially through the school) and Tannery Triathlon (optional sponsorship).

In 2019/20 FTDS spent £9,274.82, funding:

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| ❖ Playground markings (£3,812)                          | ❖ Harpist during Arts week (£75).        |
| ❖ Guided reading books for Early Years and KS1 (£1,900) | ❖ Early Years garden improvements (£18)  |
| ❖ Display cabinet for the hall (£900)                   | ❖ Early Years baking day (£20)           |
| ❖ Toys for Tannery Tots/Afterschool club (£160)         | ❖ Reading area resources (£88)           |
| ❖ Defibrillator (£588)                                  | ❖ Class games (£43)                      |
| ❖ Hi-vis vests (£528)                                   | ❖ Teepee for Year 4 (£32)                |
| ❖ Imajica Christmas pantomime (£275)                    | ❖ Year 4 leaver's party ice creams (£15) |

Other funding commitments were made and will be included in 2020/21 accounts.

In recognition of the difficult climate charities found themselves in and with Royston in Blue unable to run this year, shared funds raised by the Tannery Triathlon equally with Teenage Cancer Trust.

As we look ahead to 2020/21, FTDS will carefully consider what activities/events we are able to run and we will continue to explore opportunities for both fundraising and providing enriching activities/experiences for students.

### **Thanks**

I would like to recognise and thank our fantastic FTDS committee members & our helpers list for all of your help and support this year. During the Autumn and Spring terms members ran a wide range of popular events which were greatly enjoyed by students and their families. In the Summer term members rose to the challenges posed by lock down and COVID 19 restrictions; coming together for on-line meetings, using the Facebook group for productive discussions, handing over and adapting the running of uniform sales and exploring positive ways for FTDS to connect with the school community while raising funds. Thank you for everything you have done this year and for keeping FTDS active and relevant at a time which was personally challenging for all of us.

I would also like to thank Emma Harding who is stepping down this year as Treasurer and Trustee after 4 years. In addition to running and helping at events, Emma has continued to move FTDS's processes forward year on year and has been instrumental in developing FTDS' online presence, including our, now essential, ability to take online payments/donations.

FTDS would also like to thank the staff of Tannery Drift School for their support, without whom we would not have been able to run activities/events like the Christmas cards, discos and Christmas fair.

Finally, we would like to thank the wider school community for their continuing support and generosity. Having an actively engaged school community enables us to run our events and motivated us to build upon our successes to the benefit of our children and their families.

The next year ahead will have its challenges and FTDS will adapt and develop to enable us to continue to work to enhance the lives of our children and their families.

Paula McQueen – FTDS Chair