

The Friends of the Blake School Association  
**Annual General Meeting**

---



Wednesday 25th September 2019 7.30pm

Attendees : Sarah Hubbard, Kerry Hyatt, Charlie Hughes, David Burgoyne, Stacey Harrison, Rachel Jones, Ellen Maskell, Charlotte Glover, Richeldis Castree, Katie Amiri, Tim Edwards-Grundy, Claire Doland, Chris Longson, Jen Reynolds, Kate Hardy, Genia Neal, Philippa Payne, Hazel Stratford.

### **Review of Accounts for 2018/19**

- Fundraising in the last school year amounted to a total of £15k. This is a £5,000 increase on the previous year!
- We held an extra quiz night during this year and increased entry prices helping towards this total. Plus a few extra bits during the year (take a teddy day, scavenger hunt, etc.).
- Current amount available in bank account stands at just over £22,000.

### **Review of Donations to the School 18/19**

- We provided all of the usual donations during the year : Reception book bags, teacher money, Year 6 leavers party, junior librarian subscription, contributions towards school trips, etc. Plus some new library furniture.

### **Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary 2019/20**

**Chair : Sarah Hubbard**

**Vice-Chair : Kerry Hyatt** (plus "Silent Partner": Charlie Hughes)

**Treasurer : David Burgoyne**

**Secretary : Stacey Harrison**

Thanks given to Charlie and Kerry for co-chairing during the last school year and to Rachel as Treasurer. It was at many times very

stressful, but they all did amazingly. Thankfully, all will still be involved with The Friends going forward.

- Also losing Ally on Communications. Again, Ally has been great with all of the newsletters, posters and Facebook updates. Richeldis Castree, Charlie Hughes and Katie Amiri happy to take the lead on communications going forward.
- Sarah spoke about how she hopes that The Friends will continue to run as a team with everyone taking on different bits as and when. She hopes that more parents will get involved with events and not feel that The Friends are a separate group of parents to the rest. "Every parent in the school is a 'Friend'!"

### **Class Reps 19/20 :**

*Reception, Mrs Moss - Nicky Cayley*  
*Reception, Mrs Rowlands - Anna Newton*  
*1RC - Penny Bennett*  
*1AN - Jen Webster*  
*2VH - Vikki Hardlett*  
*2LR - Jen Reynolds*  
*3FH & 3AUW - Ellen Maskell & Jo Cassar*  
*4AH - Sarah Hubbard*  
*4DR - Katie Amiri*  
*5KH - Charlotte Glover*  
*5ZL - Lisa Benson*  
*6CM - Chris Longson*  
*6NP - Karen Williams*

### **Proposed Donations for 2019/20**

- All agreed that we will continue to provide donations for the bits we do every year (school trips, book bags, etc).
- Everyone happy to renew the Junior Librarian subscription (approx. £650).
- Money towards the Year 1 "Shed". The Year 1 team are very excited to have a new space for outside learning possibilities. This will have

multi uses including being a space for reading, role play and maths that the adults could utilise for intervention groups along with a helping those children that are needing a bit of calm. This will be going up on the 5th October.

- Sarah asked if everyone was happy for any other small bits (up to £450 each, up to an annual total of £1,500) to be agreed as and when without it having to go to an official vote at a meeting. All agreed that this was fine.
- Chris spoke about our previous idea to have more details about exactly how much of the school trips cost has been funded by The Friends in the letter that goes out to the parents. Claire and Tim happy for this to happen. Agreed that Charlie will email Claire with trip contribution details once agreed so that it can be included in the letters.
- Our main fundraising focus is, as last year, **The Adventure Zone**.

## **The Adventure Zone**



Tim gave a presentation on his vision is for "The Adventure Zone". Everyone agreed that it will be excellent for the children with many benefits.

- Current quote from one company, Hand Made Places, is at £22,000. This figure has gone down from the initial quote and the contract will need to be very carefully looked at first.
- All agreed that an amount of £15,000 can be taken from what is in the bank account at the moment to go towards this. Also confident that the rest of the money will be able to be raised during this school year.

- Tim and Claire felt positive that this company may be open to some negotiation on the price, but again, the fine details of the contract will need to be thoroughly looked at.
- All in agreement that a way of displaying the amount we have raised and what's left to go will be a good idea. Charlie to talk again to Rich Newman about whether he can create something but we will also look at other ideas too. Thermometers and bubble tanks that the children can get involved with were a couple of the suggestions.
- Sarah has applied for a grant from the Andrew Fisher Foundation as well as the Waitrose Community Matters boxes. A letter to local businesses is also going to be sent out.
- Rachel to give Charlie the correct link to our PayPal donation page so that can get promoted to parents again.
- Another sponsored event will be a good fundraiser for this cause.

### **Event Plans for 2019/20**

- First quiz night **Friday 18th October.**
- Disco **Friday 15th November.**
- Christmas Fair **Saturday 30th November.** Slightly earlier than we would have done, but so not to clash with Cogges Farm's Christmas event and was the date that had more of the committee available to help. Further details to be discussed at next meeting.
- Summer Fete **Friday 10th July.** Will be doing the Summer Fete differently this year. Hoping to hold a sponsored event during the school day with the fete after school. A sponsored event, most likely a run or walk, that the whole school is involved in will hopefully not only be an exciting day for the children, but also a huge fundraiser. The Easter Scavenger Hunt that we did last year raised £915 with only 31 children participating! The biggest money makers of the Summer Fete is normally the raffle and BBQ so these would still happen along with a few stalls and rides. Details to be arranged at future meeting.
- Other disco dates and quiz nights to be arranged.

**Next meeting date to be arranged.**

