

DCIS Friends AGM Monday 18th November 2013

Chairperson's Report

Our financial year runs with the academic year, so ends in July and our AGM is held now, in mid-November so that newly elected Friends do not have to be thrown in the deep end by organising our biggest fundraising event of the year (the Fireworks) in the first term that they join!

I have been Chairperson for a year now having sat in this very room whilst there was a deathly silence as Anna reminded us all that she had decided to step down after 2 years of holding the office and we were asked for nominations...

I had previously begun to think that I might put myself forward if nobody else would, only because I didn't want to see the good work of the Friends come to an end. From what I had seen since I joined the Friends the year before when my daughter Chloe started in Reception I could see that this was a real asset to the school which enriches our children's education and enhances our School as a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Well, you've guessed it, nobody else put themselves forward and after much nudging and prompting and nominating and seconding from some of my very good friends who are still my friends – here I am!

I spent the first few months in denial about having accepted the role, the next few months finding my feet and hopefully the last few months actually being the Chairperson and co-ordinating a great bunch of people to do some fantastic fundraising for our School. With that in mind and the fact that soon we will be getting a new Head teacher to work with, I will offer myself to be re-elected as Chair for just one more year unless anybody else would like the job in which case I am happy to step aside. Either way, thank you all as we couldn't have achieved such successful results without the support of all the Friends, the Staff, the Parents, the Governors and all those associated with the school.

The financial period we are talking about today is from **September 2012 to July 2013** and in that period we continued with the trend of previous Friends committees and held 3 main events; a Fireworks Event, an Easter Fayre and a Summer Party. These are in bold on the diagram that you can see...

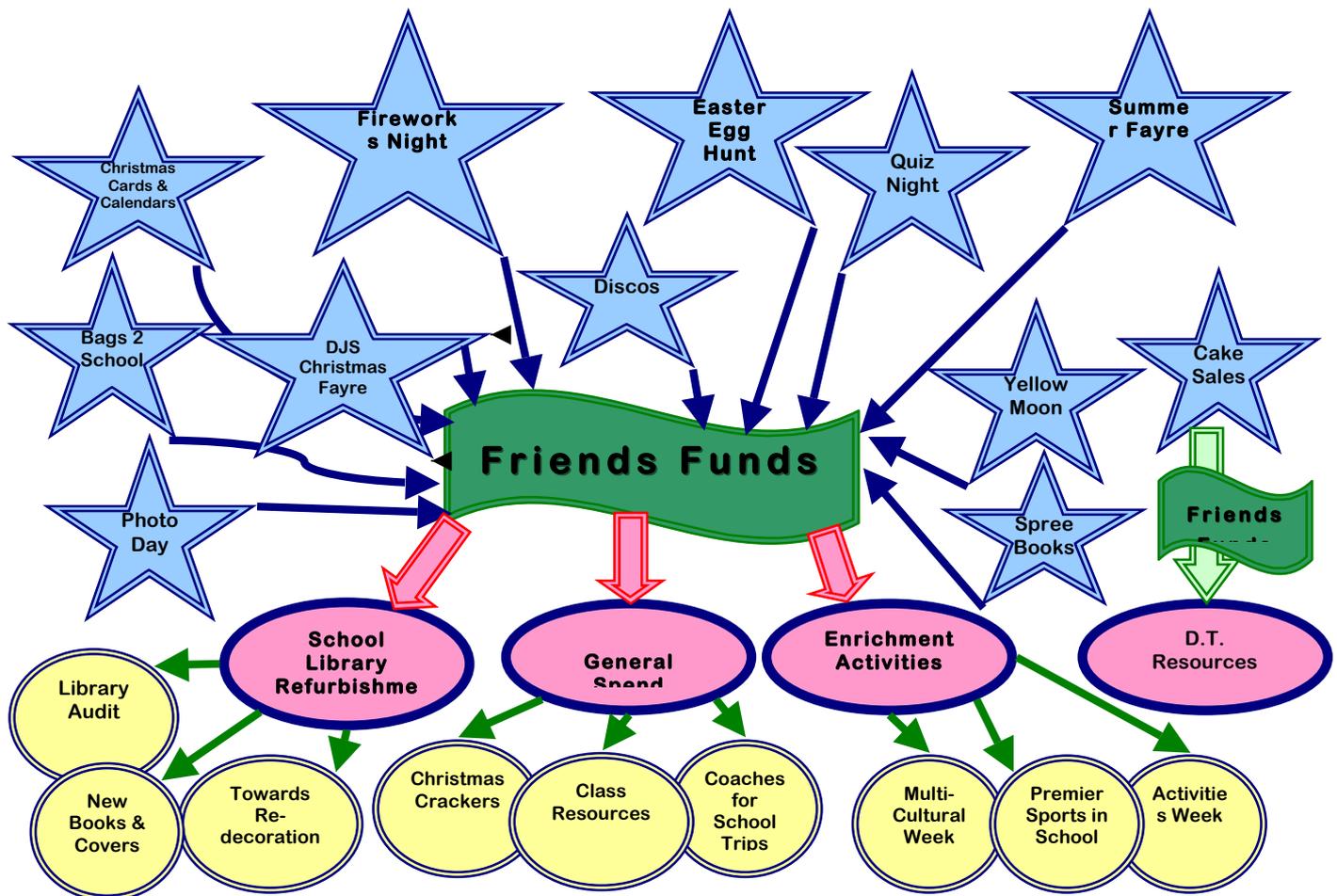
I have updated this from a hardcopy version that someone else designed and I thought it was a useful way to show all the events we do and what we do with the money we have raised. Our current Treasurer, Kerri will take you through the exact figures in a short while so I will just use it to give you an overview of our activities.

In September last year Mrs Wyatt approached the Friends with the fact that she and the School Governors wanted to update the **School Library** and also make it available to the wider community because Drayton does not have a library. So this became the main focus for our fundraising.

The first fundraising event after last year's AGM was our **Decorated Envelope Stall** at the Drayton Junior School Christmas Fayre. A big thank you to Nikki Buck & Charlene Nicholls who were selling Decorated Envelopes that the children in our school had made beautiful and parents had filled with sweets or a toy. As usual, they sold out within about 20 minutes so we hope we can get more filled this year and these will be ready to go into book bags early next week I believe.

We have provided **Discos** throughout the year, which although the focus is not so much about profit they do make a decent amount of money but even more importantly the children really enjoy these (and dare I say, some grown-ups do too – Rob Holland!!!). We also held **Mother's Day & Father's Day shops** for the children, which were non-profit events but are a lovely opportunity for the children to buy a little secret something for their relatives and they love it (the children that is)!

We have also supported termly **Cake Sales or Class Cafes** held by Year 1 & Year 2 children who get the chance to sell cakes that parents from their class have brought in. A few years ago the Friends decided to give a specific focus to these funds and chose for these to go towards DT resources which, among other things, includes cookery for all the children. **The next Cake Sale is the Frog Class Café and will be on Friday this week at 2:15pm!**



Throughout the year there are particular things that the Friends tend to commit to help in funding. Which you can see in yellow on the diagram... With some spend already committed and no big events underway we decided to try to apply for some Grants to see if we could get some assistance with the library project. We applied to Foyles and to Jarrolds who both have Grant schemes for book related projects but were unsuccessful with both of these applications. It is therefore with some pride and some relief that our events were so successful that we were able to fulfil our regular commitments and help to fund the library refurbishment (photos...).

Our **Easter Fayre** has grown from strength to strength. In what has become our usual format the Friends worked with the Year 2 teachers and got some great riddles from the Year 2 Children to use as clues that take people on the Easter Egg Hunt. One child's riddle was chosen for each clue with their name appearing on the clue itself. The Hunt takes people all around the school grounds which proved very interesting this year considering the fact that this Easter it snowed! In an interesting twist of events we did not get enough people signed up for the Photo Session we usually do at Easter and therefore we were able to move the Decorated Envelopes, Refreshments etc into the School Hall instead of hosting them in a classroom. We put tables and chairs out in the hall which worked really well and created a great atmosphere. Despite the weather the Easter Bunny (also now known as the Arctic Hare) made an appearance – much to the children's delight! Thank you mystery Bunny and a big thanks to Cheryl and many other Friends for making this event happen.

Usually about May time the Friends had run a Race Night, but with this event falling into the new hands of Becky Chick and Lindsay Rose, they proposed and we agreed to change this into a **Quiz Night**. This was a huge success with many requests for it to become a termly event although I

think that Becky and Lindsay nearly passed out at the thought! During the night they hosted a raffle which had been generously supported by local businesses for which we are very grateful.

Our last major event of the last School Year was our **Summer Family Party** on a Friday evening which had been shifted the previous year from our Saturday Summer Fete. In keeping with our main fundraising focus we chose a Book Theme for this event which was a huge and sunny success with various stalls, a bar, bouncy castles, entertainment from Freddie as well as the Taverham Junior Band and the Premier Sport Street Dancers. This was also a great send off for the Year 2 children who all received a medal from the Friends as a memento of their time at DCIS. Another big thank you to Cheryl Stone, Sarah Halliwell and many others for making that event possible.

Smaller fundraisers throughout the year have included **Puffin Books** (thanks to Cheryl Stone), **Yellow Moon** (thanks to Jo Cooke), **Bags 2 School** and **Christmas Cards** (thanks to Rachel Anderson), **Calendars** and **Tea towels** (thanks to Donna Cann) and **Studio Norwich Photo Sessions** (that I have overseen). We also were involved with **Ink Cartridge Recycling** (that Emma Storey has overseen) and whilst this was a worthy cause it was not a big fundraiser so this year we took the opportunity to switch to a scheme run through an office supplies company that the school use.

A big thank you must be said to Denise Slaughter for initiating and co-ordinating a fundraiser via **Spree Books** too.

Mrs Wyatt has always been very good at ensuring that we keep the balance between providing fun events and activities that make money for the School but on the same hand not making people feel that we are always asking for their money – I hope we have succeed in getting that balance right!

Of course, our biggest fundraising event of the year was the **Fireworks event**. A lot of organising took place prior to the event and we had lots of help from parents, Friends and staff. The total amount raised from this year's event will be announced toward the end of this AGM as that is jumping into the next period and will be displayed on the School Website & around School later this week. The Fireworks event takes so much organising & so many hours are put into the preparation for and running of this event so a huge thanks to everyone involved, particularly those who have served the event for many years and especially Jason Mills who has been overseeing the fireworks and the health & safety aspect of the event for the last 9 years now and whose expertise has been invaluable.

We've also tried to update parents about our events via the school website, so please keep a look-out on there for any future events.

I would like to thank the Friends as well as the Parent Helpers and Class Representatives and everyone who've played a huge part in helping with many different on-going tasks and have been a massive support and encouragement to me personally.

And finally, I would like to offer my full support to anyone who is considering joining the Friends – we have fun and we raise funds!!!