

Chairs Report 2023/2024

As the Chair of the Friends of St. Peter's School, I am delighted to present our annual report for the academic year 2023/2024.

Event Highlights:

Christmas Activities: Our festive celebrations brought joy and warmth to the school community, including a wonderful Wreath Making Workshop with Time for Flowers, arranging a visit from Santa and gifts for all the children, coordinating the ordering of bespoke Christmas Cards and Gifts for the children, refreshments throughout School's Festive Activities including the all new Christmas Carol sing along and ensuring the school looked stunning both inside and out with the purchase of outdoor trees and festive outdoor lighting.

A new initiative **LEAP into 2024** created much fun, excitement and a little bit of competition! Children were encouraged to design their own sponsored event - reading 24 books, running 2.4km or swimming 24 lengths, to name a few - the ideas were genius! Prizes were awarded for the most unique ideas and to children who went above and beyond with their challenges. The Leap into 2024 Challenge was our biggest fundraising event, raising over £4000!

Bags 2 School and Easyfundraising: Both remain a regular and steady source of income. There is still more that could be done with the Easyfundraising initiative, which is very simple once the app is set up. Since 2023, we have steadily gained supporters with now 70 enlisted parents and carers to date. Since 2023, we have raised £907 through this initiative.

An annual Movie Night and Disco provided a fun-filled evening for children to share social events with friends. While Special Occasions allowed for a **Mother's Day Shop** hosted in school - while these efforts do not bring huge fundraising benefits, we know from feedback that the children cherish the opportunities to pick gifts for loved ones who care for them.

Raffle: A highlight of our fundraising calendar, the raffle raised an impressive £3335.95, thanks to the generous donations from local businesses and our supportive community - our raffle has become known for the incredible array of high-quality and high-value prizes.

Sports Day: A day filled with sportsmanship and camaraderie, with a special thanks to the Friends who dedicated their time to serve refreshments and coloured flags, bringing together a real school community spirit.

General Donations: We are grateful for the generosity of our community, with various amounts received as general donations including donations from OEP-UK, Safer Caring Consultancy, Jennings Estate Agents, and Matilda's mission towards Christmas activities and Infinis Energy Services, who donated £500 towards playground developments.

As part of this AGM, we extend our absolute appreciation and thanks to Natalie Love and Olivia Nelson, who are stepping down from their roles as committee members and trustees of the Friends Charity. To Natalie, your endless time commitment, organisation skills, meticulous checking and planning of registers and rotas - thank you! And to Olivia, a guiding voice of thought and consideration as we entered into a new phase of being a registered charity - and for making Rev Mark take the stocks!! Thank you!

You have both been instrumental in driving our fundraising success and enhancing the school experience for our children. On behalf of the Friends, we sincerely thank them for their invaluable contributions.

The position of Chair has been difficult to fill but we have a plan. The Friends will have a less active year ahead (unless a new Chair comes forward in the interim) however, we have two new trustees who have agreed to be nominated into position. Michelle Dixon and Helen Kemp - as a team with Lauren, we will work together on a less active year through 2025/26 with a view that Michelle will take over the Chair position, supported by Helen from September 2026 onwards.

Volunteer Support:

While we celebrate the success of our fundraising events, it's essential to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of all our volunteers. Without their dedication and commitment, none of these events would have been possible. However, we are always in need of more volunteers to ensure the smooth running of our activities and to expand our reach within the community. As it stands, we are now unable to consider hosting any events, from discos to summer socials, until we expand our capacity as a Friends group. We welcome a new model where individuals take on smaller tasks such as coordinating single events, discos, movie nights, Father's Day events while the Friends become less active through the 2025/26 year.

Whether you can spare an hour or commit to regular involvement, your support is crucial to the continued success of The Friends of St Peter's and the enrichment of our school community.

Conclusion:

The 2023/2024 academic year has been another remarkable chapter for the Friends of St. Peter's School. Through the dedication of our committee, volunteers, and the incredible support of our school community, we've delivered a fantastic programme of events, raised significant funds, and made a meaningful impact on the school experience for our children.

As we look ahead, we acknowledge the need for a period of reduced activity while we strengthen our volunteer base and transition leadership. The introduction of new trustees, *Michelle Dixon* and *Helen Kemp*, brings stability and a clear plan for the future, with Michelle set to take on the Chair role in **September 2026**.

Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to **Natalie Love** and **Olivia Nelson** for their outstanding service and to all the volunteers and supporters who have made this year such a success. Together, we can continue to enhance the experiences and opportunities for the children of St. Peter's School.