

Friends' of Coulsdon C. of E. School Chairman's Report 2008/9

Overview:

We have continued with the structure that was established two years ago with a smaller committee overseeing the major events, plus dedicated class representatives choosing and organising their own event. We firmly believe that this structure has served to boost our fundraising efforts in what has been a tough year financially. It has even produced extreme competitiveness between the representatives as the classes all strive to raise the most money. It has been warming to see all of you getting behind your class representatives and I am pleased to announce that we have seen a doubling of volunteers coming forward this academic year to take up the mantle. I would like to take this opportunity to record my gratitude to people who are leaving us: Julie Millett, Clare Penfold, Jo & Neil Davis, and Nina Weeks. I would also like to thank old committee members who just keep coming back to help at events, and those parents who continually put themselves forward all the time to help and support us.

The Past:

We have spent the last 12 months reviewing and strengthening our fundraising practices. We are now required by law to compile a safety plan and risk assessment for each event that we run and we have implemented a process to comply with our legal obligations. We have also overhauled our financial reporting systems so that we can better account for our expenditure and by so doing minimise our expenditure per event. We exceeded our personal expectations on support and funds raised at our traditional major events: the Christmas Cracker; Spring Fair; and the Fireworks Night. Our funds were also boosted by £1500 for the year due to matched funding schemes by bank employees at the school. We are pleased to report that our fundraising total for the year was in excess of £10,000 and this allowed us to help the school purchase the following: 2 interactive white boards for Y5 and Y6; furniture for the Eden Room; Lacrosse Kit; lego for all classes; 4 football tables; 4 picnic benches; football prizes for the school tournament; and a £100 donation to each class. It was our aim at the beginning of the year not to cancel any events but unfortunately we had no option with both the ice skating (for safety reasons) and the Party Nite (due to poor sales).

Looking to the Future:

As we earn in excess of £5k per annum we have no option than to apply for charity registration this year which we are in the process of doing; our adoption of the new NCPTA Model Constitution is the first step in this process. We are also looking to run more events for the children to take part in to build on their enthusiasm to help us raise funds.

In conclusion:

As we enter this academic year of 2009/10, it will be my third and final year on the Friends' Committee, and my second as the Chairman. I have thoroughly relished every moment and it has been a great pleasure to have worked alongside a dedicated team of fellow parents, all of whom are entering their third and final year as well. We welcome all the new parents who are joining us and intend to build on our work over the past 12 months. We aim to surpass our fundraising total for 2008/9, and look forward to all of you helping us to achieve that.

Kate Taylor
October 2009