



20<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers

### **Friends Yearly Update and AGM invite**

This year we have embarked on some fantastic projects to benefit all of our children.

#### **Outdoor Gym**

We aimed to develop an area of the school to provide an outdoor gym to help build stamina, muscle, coordination and encourage fitness through group work or solo exercise. We have developed the idea with the assistance of occupational therapists, physiotherapists, paediatricians and staff who work with our children with various balance problems and disabilities.

Fresh air is therapeutic and the enjoyment of outside exercise, has a good feel factor. We want to give our children a skill that can be taken through into their out of school lives and we hope this will give them strength and skill to access many other sports and leisure activities as well as help build core strength which in turn helps with fine motor skills.

As part of the project we have also included an all-inclusive swing. This comprises of two mainstream bar swings and one up right woven seat swing.

The whole project was costed at £19,000 and I am very pleased to say that through the many events held this year, bids to foundations and community support we have raised enough funds! The gym is to be installed during the summer holidays.

#### **School Resources and Trip support**

As well as this project we have also spoken to staff and helped provide resource and funds to help with the day to day teaching and events that our children enjoy each year.

£1400 was raised to buy 23 digital cameras for each year group to use in day to day work.

We have funded 5 school residential trips, leavers hoodies, the limo and food for prom.

#### **Complex Needs**

Since last summer Friends have proved an interactive Omi system for complex needs, a sensory /musical playground with safety surface and we have just been given another £3500 toward the renovation, decoration and purchase of new furniture for the sensory room.

#### **Prom**

Friends worked with staff to assist with leavers prom. We paid for the limousine and contributed towards the food. Friends organised and funded a 'photo booth' and a 'mocktail bar'. I would like to thank post 16 parents Keith and Lisa Adams for their time and skill in making the most amazing bar complete with fake beer pulls! The staff from The Walkabout Bar, Lichfield then gave up their time and came to make and serve the 'mocktails', they even brought all of the ingredients at no cost to the school!

## **Social Events**

We have had some lovely social events this year. We ran a lovely family bingo night, 3 craft nights for pupils, a Valentines disco and film nights. We hope to do many more fun things for our children next year and have some great events lined up for the next school year.

## **Community Support**

The Lichfield Community have been so supportive of Queens Croft School this year. The Santa Dash was held in our name with all donations going to the gym. Cameron homes have donated a large amount of money to us as have various local organisations and charities.

Jon Arrowsmith from the Lichfield festivals has given us a free stand at all market events this year in Lichfield. We had a great time at craft club making bird feeders and garden items to sell on our stand at the Lichfield Homes and Gardens Show in May. Liberty Youth Club took the Gin, Cheese and Wine Festival and we will be having the Christmas Festival Stall. We hope you will visit us for some festive cheer!

Sun Cream Diaries, Tamworth donated 200 ice-creams for Sports Day and Elmhurst Strawberry farm gave us a knock down price for 500 strawberries.

Medizen in Mere Green held a Ball in our honour at The Old school House which raised £5000 which was then matched by Sir Peter Rigby, giving us an enormous £10.000.

## **Successful Bids to Charitable Foundations this year**

Charitable foundations have granted huge sums of money to us over the last 12 months and I have listed some of them below as a way of recognition for their generosity.

- Awards for All Lottery – 20k – Gym and Complex Needs playground
- Swinfen Brun Foundation -2k – Playground Equipment
- The Act foundation 5k – Musical Equipment
- Cadbury foundation 1k - Gym
- The Mary Slayer Charity - – 3k - Playground
- Elsie and Wilfred Owen Foundation – 5k – Cameras and gym
- The Clothworkers Foundation - 10k – Omi System
- The Foyle Foundation – 5K – Omi System
- Screw Fix Foundation – 3.5K – Sensory Furniture

## **Thank you**

In total since last summer, Friends has raised and given over £55,500 to the school to help give our children as many opportunities as possible.

I wish to thank the committee and staff for all of their dedication and help this year and I am sure you will agree that Friends, has indeed, had a very busy, fun and productive year!

## **AGM Invite to all Staff, Parents and Carers**

As we break up now for Summer I would like to invite all parents and staff to our next meeting in September. This is our AGM. The AGM is to look back on the year and vote in new members or to allow existing members to step down should they wish. The continuing success of Friends relies on members and support and so I would ask you to consider joining us for nibbles and drinks at the Duke of York Pub, Greenhill, Lichfield, Ws13 6EB at 7pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Hoping that we all have a lovely summer break and looking forward to seeing some of you in September

With Best Wishes

Ashley Hall - Chair