



NEWSLETTER 27TH APRIL 2021

We are finally writing with a long overdue update to everyone on what the Friends have been up to over the last 18 months!

Firstly, we successfully became a registered charity in February 2020. Although this does create an extra administration burden on the committee team, it will enable us to apply for more grant funding and benefit from Gift Aid which added more than £100 to the Halloween Sponsored Fun Run sponsorships.

Fundraising

Fundraising has been put on hold due to Covid19; however, we did manage to raise over £1,350 from the Halloween Sponsored Fun Run – which was just amazing!

Thanks to a very persistent parent who kept applying for grants on behalf of Friends, we were finally successful in obtaining £1,000 from Persimmon Homes. This has been used towards the firepit installed over the Easter Holidays.

Easy Fundraising

Most of you will have seen the Committee pushing the use of Easy Fundraising which really is free money for the school. In case you haven't seen it, it allows you to donate money to Friends every time you use easyfundraising to shop in over 4,000 retailers. The best bit....it does not cost you anything! To date we have received £430.34 from just 19 supporters; we use it when making any purchase on behalf of Friends and it would be fabulous if we could add more supporters. All you have to do is ensure that you access the retailer's website via the Fundraising app or webpage, you can even turn on the donation reminder on, so you don't forget! If you would like to sign up – please use this link, as the School will receive an additional £5 bonus when a new supporter raises £5 after joining - only through this link (if you want us to email the link to you – just pop us an email to friendsofhawksworthschool@gmail.com)

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fohawksworthsch/?invite=VQ82U8&referral-campaign=s2s>

Amazon Smile

We have also been added to Amazon Smile, who will now donate a percentage of the value of your purchase every time you shop on Amazon. All you need to do is ensure you access amazon via smile rather than the normal Amazon website (it has exactly the same products and you can still use your normal Amazon account). Just select Friends of Hawksworth School as your chosen charity and its free money again for the School.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

Finally, if anyone is aware of any charitable giving schemes / grants at their work, then please do send details to the committee!

Purchases

Our first major purchase back in November 2019 (which used the infamous Black Friday deal) was an Ipad for each class; previously they had been sharing one mini Ipad between all the classes. One of the major benefits has meant that Class 1 can now utilise the Tapestry system for our reception children.

Prior to Covid hitting in 2020, we were able to fund a day of the *Northern Arts Factory* workshops which each class were able to attend.

As some of you will be aware, the classes have all been given a planter to grow fruit and vegetables in. The teachers would like to pass on their thanks to all those that have donated plants or compost or made a donation to help the planters flourish. Friends have invested in an extra-long (200ft) hose pipe to ensure the planters can be watered during the current drought we seem to be experiencing.

We purchased a new interactive whiteboard for Class 3 which is put to good use on a daily basis by the teaching team in Class 3.

Each class was given £500 to invest in their own class provisions and here is what some of it has been spent on:

Class 1

We have purchased several storage boxes and baskets to ensure everything has a proper home whether inside or outside; along with hessian fabric to show off the latest themes on the walls. The teachers have created a dedicated reading area complete with canopy and sofa. One of the larger purchases was the lovely mud kitchen, complete with utensils which the children love. The role play toys now include dress up costumes, medical sets, dinosaur track and tool sets. To aid with maths, we purchased a set of Sumblox, which have proved very popular!

In addition to the £500, Class 1 was long overdue an internal spruce up and whilst the school funded many aspects of this, Friends were delighted to be able to help with numerous new pieces of furniture, a lovely rug and a sofa (a significant improvement on the boxes with cushions).

Class 2

You can see many of the purchases Friends have made following the move to their new classroom in the Haven, including the lovely wooden crates holding the books in the reading area and the pens, pencils etc on the desks. The reading area now has a forest theme complete with ivy and various leaf cushions which has created a lovely environment for the children to relax and read. The new pencil lamp also adds a fabulous touch to the creative area.

We have also funded some costumes and toys for role play.

Mrs Oliver still has a small amount left to spend, so we will update you when she decides what to invest the remainder of the money on.

Class 3

We purchased a selection of funky fabrics and with the help of a very kind Grandma who was a whizz with a sewing machine, each chair now has a seat bag containing the children's essential items.

Class 3's children became zookeepers as part of their topic last term and Friends bought each child a t-shirt and using their new class sharpies they designed a zookeepers top – hopefully you will have seen some of the fab creations in the school newsletter.

Miss Dereix has a number of other items which we are in the process of purchasing, a lot of these will be to make the inside of the new classroom refreshing but we will update you on these purchases in due course!

Last, but by no means least, Friends funded *Rupert* the reading rabbit and all his equipment – I am sure you will agree that he is very fluffy and cute. He certainly seems to be a hit with all the children in the school!

Class 4

Mr Maguire has purchased lots of different shape bags, including, 2D, 3D, mini and folding ones. Larger watercolour paper and new brushes was another purchase and we look forward to seeing some of the children's creations. A monster sewing pack plus needles and thread will help them stay creative.

To ensure the children can communicate in their Forest School lessons, we also funded the purchase of some Forest Phones.

Mr Maguire also has some of the class budget remaining and we look forward to receiving his request for some additional items!

The Committee and School would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone that has helped with fund raising over the past couple of years. We are hoping the world will be back to 'normal' in the not-too-distant future and then we can, once again, get together to raise funds for the purchase of some wonderful things for the school.

If anyone has any fund-raising ideas or would like to get involved with the committee, we are still seeking a Chair, then please do get in touch via the email – friendsofhawksworthschool@gmail.com

Best wishes for a wonderful Summer ! 

Friends of Hawksworth School Committee
