

**The Friends of Ivy Chimneys**  
**Chair's Report – 2019/2020**  
**18th November 2020**

**Chair's Statement**

It was a year of two halves for my first year as Chair. 2019 was great fun whilst getting to grips with running our full calendar of events. Quiz Night, Movies and Munch, Christmas Fayre and, in my opinion, the epic Christmas Disco! We certainly have some ravers in the making at Ivy! We welcomed in 2020 and...well, need I say more.

Despite the unusual year we have a great team who continue to think outside the box and want to play a part in enhancing the school-life of the children at Ivy, whilst bringing the community together.

The Green Calendar is not on our fridges this year but Covid restrictions are not going to stop us. As a collective we decided that this academic year is about giving something back and making up for lost time. We pooled our ideas and came up with some new initiatives to bring the community together and tweaks to our favourite Ivy events under current guidelines. I'm sure the "Ivy Pumpkin Festival" over half-term will become an annual event.

The FoICS had the pleasure of donating funds for the Daily Mile track, plus play equipment for the children to use at break and lunchtime in 2019. Contributions towards the EYFS playground refurbishment, extension to Breakfast & After School club and the new Library have been offered and those transactions will hopefully be confirmed in this academic year.

So far this year we have been able to assist the current, and future children, of Maple class with the purchase of a new interactive whiteboard. Despite a quick fix over a year ago, it finally gave up and was beyond repair – look out for a tweet from Mr Jones soon.

We all have our fingers crossed that 2021 is a bit more of what we are used to, and I look forward to working with you.

Thank you.

**Objectives of The Friends of Ivy Chimneys**

The objective of the Friends of Ivy Chimneys School is to help advance the education of the pupils in the school in two areas:

- By developing and maintaining effective relationships with all those associated with the school - staff, parents or pupils.
- To engage in activities and provide equipment and facilities to the school to benefit pupils in a number of ways.

The Friends of Ivy Chimneys recognise that we have an ongoing requirement to demonstrate that our charitable endeavours are for the public benefit which is a legal requirement for every charitable organisation:

**2019/2020**

- a) **Newsletters** - sent via ParentMail, WhatsApp groups and on-line to ensure all parents are communicated to.
- b) **Creating Event Leads** – with an aim to share the load, give our volunteers a morale boost and sense of ownership to run an Event their way.
- c) **Extending the Committee** – by sharing and splitting out roles / responsibilities and utilising the talents and passions of our parents we have been able to take on more and become a slicker operation, especially in the digital world:

- Lee Betts – Website, Lottery and Design
- Tara Wallace-Senior – Social Media
- Hayley Crossley – Volunteer Co-ordinator (Summer and Christmas Fayre)
- Mandy Salt – Eco Manager
- Kate Webster – Grants
- Wendy Adams – Christmas, Easter and Summer Raffles
- Jen Scott-Barden and Monique Marks - Committee Contributors

c) **Digital** – enhancements to our digital provision has made a huge impact to the school community and the workload of the FoICS team. Online payments for all events including raffle tickets, event attendee lists, dedicated email address for our committee members, upgrading to a user-friendly and interactive dedicated website. Access to google drive for all historical and current working docs have been a great help.

d) **Posters** – we are very proud of our colourful and informative posters which assist with communicating to our parents. We decided to move away from flyers for many of our events to be more eco-friendly and have been replaced with 10 posters strategically placed around the school. A PDF of the poster is shared on WhatsApp groups, ParentMail and on the website.

d) **Social Media** – creation of a facebook page and Instagram page to further enhance our communication channels and sharing pictures post-event.

e) **Calendar of Events** – with support of Montagues Estate Agent we were again able to produce and publish a full year calendar of events for all families for them to stick on their fridge at home. This has proved extremely popular and when we return to normality, we will work with Montagues to produce it again.

## **2020/2021**

We will continue:

a) **Newsletter** - continue to publish online and via WhatsApps and ParentMail

b) **Events Diary** - Montagues sponsored Events Diary to be prepared for production in the next academic year.

c) **Zoom Calls** - regular Zoom calls whilst Covid restrictions are in place but may be the way forward to reach out to more volunteers who can't make the evening meetings.

d) **Addition Planning Meetings** -events to-do sessions will be diarised separately – for example the Summer and Christmas Fayres.

e) **School Liaison** - as and when required/invited the Chair will liaise with Becky Sigston and Andy Jones regarding events in school (and out of school for guidance, for example, The Pumpkin Festival) and for future spending requests.

f) **Innovation** - continue to be innovative in the absence of the usual events and to continually improve. The “Ivy Chimneys Pumpkin Festival” proved to be a huge success based on feedback and number of families taking part. We also hope the Winter Events planned for the Christmas period will be a hit. All events are run with the children in mind as well as the wider community which is inline with the Schools’ “Community Me” core value.

## **Who are the Friends of Ivy Chimneys School?**

Membership of the Friends of Ivy Chimneys is open to a section of the public - parents, guardians or carers of any pupils currently attending the school, teaching and non-teaching staff currently employed by the school and any person over the age of 18 wishing to offer appropriate support or help to the school who is accepted by the committee as a Member.

- **Chair** – Kaye Vass
- **Vice Chair** – Sarah Betts

- **Treasurer** – Sophie Martin
- **Secretary** – Julie Patience
- **Teacher Liaison** - Andy Jones / Rebecca Sigston

### Changes to the team

- **Vice Chair** – Sophia Newton
- **Secretary** – Vacant

**Sophia Newton** will be in a Vice-Chair position for audit purposes but will be very much in a Co-Chair position from Sept 2020 – Welcome Aboard and thank you for your hard work and fantastic ideas so far!

### Thanks

I would like to thank **Sarah Betts** for her hard-work and fantastic contribution as Vice-Chair, we are sad to see you go. I will never forget the look I received when I announced I was unable to be there for the set-up and on the day of the Christmas Fayre 2019! I hope I made up for it and did my bit in the run-up!

**Maria Surman** is standing down as our Social Media Manager after many years, thank you for your contribution not only on Social Media but as Disco Co-ordinator and Fat Chillies Co-ordinator. I am pleased to announce that **Tara Wallace-Senior** has agreed to step-up and co-ordinate Twitter, Facebook and Instagram enhancing our social media presence – already doing a fab job.

I also want to make a special mention to the following people:

**Lee Betts**, our Communication and Digital Manager, who continues to innovate and tirelessly support on all events. I seriously do not know what we would do without you.

**Sophie Martin**, our Treasurer, who always gets her hands dirty and does a fantastic job overseeing the spending!!

**Mandy Salt**, our Eco warrior, who keeps us in check and aligned to our green ethos.

**Wendy Adams**, our Raffle Coordinator, who quite frankly does the job no one else wants to do but absolutely aces it in the process. Picking your brains always comes in handy of course!

**Hayley Crossley**, our Volunteer Coordinator, who takes on the stress of sourcing and organising our volunteers at the Summer and Christmas Fayre. We all appreciate it is not the easiest of jobs!

**Kate Webster**, **Jen Scott-Barden** and **Monique Marks**, our “All-Rounders”, who continually support, pick up the pieces and pull it out the bag. We love you!

**Andy Vass**, Quiz Master, for always making us laugh at the Quiz nights.

**Wayne Flegg**, at Montagues Estate Agents (one of our dads), for his support to us. He has provided our Events Diary, banners for our Fayres, advertising boards for the fayres and endless printing!!

There are so many volunteers, too many to mention by name, that support us year after year. The parents who run events, man a stall and who are always at set-up and take-down. Those dads who know how to erect a gazebo in, erm, seconds (well it should be by now!) and who do the heavy lifting. The parents and family members who raid cupboards at work and get us the best tickets, prizes and lots of chocolate! Those parents who give us plenty of ideas, donations and time to support the FoICS. We also couldn't do any of it without the support and time of the teachers and staff!

**Thank you to everyone for your continued input, support and guidance we really do appreciate it.**