



Friends of Vaughan AGM

Chair's Report

November 2020 – October 2021

Committee members

Chair – Becca Braithwaite
Vice Chair- Lucy Matthews
Secretary- Prajanma Singh
Treasurer- Sonal Patel
Communications Lead- Samantha Webster
Vaughan Business Lead – Mrs Beaven

It has been another challenging year with lockdowns and periods of self-isolation dominating much of school life. While this has limited our fundraising efforts, we have worked hard to support Vaughan families and bring some fun to the children.

Our fundraising efforts started with the **autumn activity pack** which we put together and sold through PTA events. This was a new way of fundraising for us and while it took some time, thank you Jennifer Chauhan, it was received positively. We took part in the **Big PTA Raffle** for the first time and had our first fundraising **non-uniform day** (Silly Hats) – both raising funds at very low effort. Lucy once again organised the **Christmas Cards** and the process was very smooth with us almost doubling profits compared with the previous year.

We started the spring term in lockdown and turned our attention to how we could use our funds to support families facing home schooling. We paid for the license to **Rising Stars** to enable all children to have access to suitable books set by their teachers. We raised over £1,250 through a Crowdfunder which enabled us to buy **10 new laptops** to help children access online learning. We also produced over 600 **spring activity packs**, which were printed for free by Vaughan, and delivered by parents to every single child in the school. I can't thank the army of volunteers enough for their hard work in bringing a little joy to Vaughan children during such difficult circumstances.

Things started to feel a little more hopeful in the summer term, and we were pleased to see the new **Trim Trail** we had helped fund installed and being enjoyed by all. Our final fundraising push was with the **Tea Towels** designed by each year and well received in the absence of school photos. This turned out to be a sizable commitment for the committee and, at the last minute, Nadia Evans who stepped in to help when my house was locked down with Covid! We once again sent the year 6 students off to high school with **personalised hoodies** and thanks goes to Nita Sullivan for organising these and Nerys who has agreed to take the job on from next!

And so, here we are in a new school year! We have already been able to give a 'Welcome to Vaughan' **gingerbread** to everyone in Reception, thanks again to the generosity of Wenzels. We are hoping to bring back some in-person events and are already in discussions about an **Autumn Bake Sale** and have been speaking to Santa about joining us for the **Christmas Fair!** School have set out some fundraising ambitions for 2021/22 and we will work together over the coming weeks to confirm and communicate these to the wider school community.

Just leaves me to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the brilliant committee, army of parents who have supported us and every family who has contributed to our fundraising efforts – we couldn't do it without you!

Becca Braithwaite
Chair