



Chair's report for the year ending 31 December 2017

Thank you

A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who has supported the Friends activities over the last year. To the many parents and staff volunteers who help out 'on the day' and to all the supporters who have donated cakes, food, plants, raffle prizes and TIME to make our activities a success. Special thanks to the Friends Trustees who plan, organise and run the events. To Lisa our Treasurer for keeping the money raised safe and accounted for, to Elizabeth our secretary and the other Trustees: Hannah, Netty, Marian, Elinor, Cal and Mollie. To Tara for the extra support she gives, to Juliette Darby for the class cake sales she coordinates, and for the hedge planting and gardening around the school, to Alistair Usher and Jake Tombs for the sounds they provide at our fairs and events, to Cath Hampshire for the posters she designs. To everyone who is a volunteer, for every little or big bit of help given - it is so very much appreciated. The Friends can only exist because of the large amount of generosity of spirit within the school community.

Aims and Goals for the Friends

The Friends is a registered charity, set up in 2005 by a group of Stroud Green parents, with the object of bringing parents, carers and staff together to advance, enhance and promote opportunities for educational, cultural and social activities for the pupils in the school, and raise funds to provide and assist in the provision of educational, cultural, social and environmental facilities, programmes and items for the school not normally provided by the local authority. All parents, carers and school staff are Members of the Association. The elected Trustees form the committee and these parent and staff volunteers are registered with the charity commission as named persons who look after the affairs and funds of the association.

Friends Events

The events arranged by The Friends have two ambitions: to bring together the school community, and raise funds to support and enrich the learning of the children at the school. The main events each year are **International Evening**, **the winter Fair**, and **the summer fair**. International Evening takes place at the beginning of the school year and is an opportunity to bring staff current and new and school families together to share and enjoy food from the wide range of communities at the school. The Friends organise music and entertainment for the event which is popular and well attended. For the winter and summer fair The Friends organize a raffle, food, stalls, entertainment, and guest appearances from for example Father Christmas in his grotto to Gunnersorous the Arsenal football club mascot.

Cake sales / School funding

Alongside the main events The Friends organise a calendar of cake sales for each year group. The Friends schedule the cake sales, and liaise with class teachers and parents to advertise, encourage bakers, and sell cakes on the advertised day to the school community. The funds raised from each cake sale are there for the year groups to spend on the children in that year. The original intention was that these funds were used, along with an amount of committed funds from The Friends each year, to provide things which would 'enrich' the school experience for the children, for things not normally provided by the Local Authority. Increasingly this has been a hard one to define, as funding for schools in real terms has been falling year on year and school budgets are increasingly under pressure from rising costs. The teachers will submit funding requests to The Friends Trustees to approve in accordance with the charity constitution, and it is increasingly hard to decide what should be funded and what not. So, moving on from here the funds raised will be used in some way to fund resources the teachers need for their class rooms. How much can be given for resources will be determined by how much activities such as cake sales raise, so it is even more important than ever to get baking!

Friends of Stroud Green School

Stroud Green School
Woodstock Road
London
N4 3EX

Charity Number **1112224**

Other fundraising activities include Phil the Bag, shopping on line via Easy Fundraising, socials such as the Bingo and curry night. And next term we are planning a family quiz night social.

The big fund raising effort for this last year has been for **the playground**. Money has been raised from the summer and winter fairs, and through a Just Giving page. Consultations and play observations have been run, in conjunction with the School Council. London Play Design, a charity that helps schools develop their play spaces, is working on a plan for the Stroud Green playgrounds, which will incorporate new play structures, rest and relaxation areas, and even possibly a tree house. We are hopeful that the first installation will take place during the summer half term, but further fundraising will be required to achieve the full plan of works. Meanwhile, the children have been enjoying the new play objects to found in the playgrounds (crates, planks of wood and rubber tyres). Special thanks to Netty who has worked hard on the planning stage for these developments.

Other activities arranged supported by The Friends are the **Outdoor Work Days**, which have included the Hedgerow planting round the perimeter of the school, general tidying, and other odd jobs round the school. The Friends also coordinate help by business volunteers for one off projects which require support.

Communication is important, and The Friends are always striving to communicate better. The Friends use a Twitter account and Facebook page to spread news about their events. There is an email address: friendsofstroudgreen@gmail.com, and next year we hope to be able to email through the school system so that all parents and carers receive The Friends news on a regular basis.

Community links The Trustees would like to thank again all the local businesses who supply food and raffle prizes. They are Clapton Craft www.claptoncraft.co.uk, The Deli at 80, Haberdashery in Crouch End www.the-haberdashery.com, Nandos, Pappagones www.pizzeriapappagone.co.uk, Dhonia Indian restaurant www.dhoniarestaurant.co.uk, The Park Theatre www.parktheatre.co.uk, Petek, Riverford Organic www.riverford.co.uk, Season www.seasonkitchen.co.uk, Tesco's, Waitrose in Crouch End, Pretty Shiny Things www.prettyshinyshop.com, Blossom Café, and Bon Martin www.boulangeriebonmatin.co.uk. We would also like to thank the WI www.stroudgreenwi.co.uk and Tiger who generously donated raffle prizes. A very **big thank you** goes to our main supporter the local estate agent **Christopher Charles** www.christophercharles.co.uk.

The Friends Suggested aims for the next year are

To work with school EMA teacher to reach the wider school community and instigate social events run by different parent groups. For example, an event to celebrate 'Eide'.

To continue with the calendar of events to bring the school community together and continue to raise funds for the benefit of the children.

To continue to work in partnership with the school & the Governing Body.

Increase communications

Reinstate the Class volunteer reps

Phil the bag

Widen the community network in the school

Final thanks for all the support The Friends have had over the last year, with special thanks to the school staff and to Cal for allowing us to help her make this the best school for our children.

Sophie Hall

The Friends of Stroud Green, Co Chair

March 2018