

APPENDIX 1



TRURO
SCHOOL

FTS

Friends of
Truro School

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHAIR'S REPORT – 2017-2018

Over the past 12 months the FTS has worked hard 'to bring the strong and inclusive community of Truro parents, pupils and teachers together', as stated in the constitution, by organising events, being present at welcome mornings and evenings, Prep Friday coffees and by generally being the friendly face and welcoming presence across the schools.

1. EVENTS

To recap, the following events have been held at the schools:

- The Prep Christmas Fair pulled a phenomenal parent work force together to produce a stunning grotto with live donkeys, along with fundraising stalls such as the cake stall, the second hand toy stall and the glass jar tombola. The class reps for each year ran stalls for the entertainment of the children and the kitchen staff provided the catering.
- The Truro School Christmas Fair looked very festive thanks to a small group of dedicated parent helpers whose last minute dedication and artistic skills managed to produce a very festive looking hall. Parents ran a cake and bakery stall; the DT department ran a charity stall, and there were 8 or so stalls run by students from Young Enterprise and World challenge to raise funds for their expedition. There were around 20 external vendors participating and volunteer parent helpers assisted on the food counter throughout the course of the event
- The Prep Barn Dance in March was once again a fantastic family event, attended by just under 100 people. Mr MacQuarrie's band excelled themselves again. Together with a tombola on the evening,
- The Prep Summer Fair was once again blessed with mostly fine but blustery weather. The theme was traditional with fairground side shows, pony rides, and a petting zoo, thanks to Kathryn Davies pets! A huge thank you goes to the DT department (led by Mr Baker at Truro School) who assisted us greatly by making fairground side show stalls; the company 'In Steel' donated a galvanised steel coconut shy. All these props can be reused. Once again Sue McIntosh and her kitchen staff kept us all well fed. The fair raised.....
- The Prep Triathlon, organised by Ros Whitelegg and Laura Fawcett and her family, was another huge success and well attended. The enormous amount of work involved to organise it should be acknowledged, and we hope that it can run again next year.
- The Truro School Sports Day cream tea and cake stall was at the heart of sports day, creating a gathering place for parents and creating a lovely community feel. Our thanks go to all the parents who helped on the day with special thanks to Vicky Hatcher and Jose MacDonald for their particular hard work – it really was the best sports day ever, with some pupils covering themselves in 'war' paint in their house colours – the atmosphere was of course helped by the amazing summer weather and the tug of war!
- This years Summer Ball was also a great success. The James Bond themed event was led by Amanda Piercy and her team of U6 parents, along with Jo Shaw, FTS members and Sarah Knowles. On the night the sports hall was absolutely transformed. The table décor, bar, casino area and dance floor all looked absolutely stunning with thanks to the parents for their hard work on this, with special thanks to Sven and his team for the lighting, dance floor and hand made chandeliers. I would like to request once again that the FTS stamp be put on this event for next year as it follows the perfect model for FTS events with at least six months of forward planning and input from both staff, a team of parents and the events team.

Any money that has been raised at Prep events over the course of the year has been set aside to go towards the stained glass partition for the new assembly hall at the Prep, and it gives me great pleasure to announce that the grand total for this now stands at £5,248

Start of 2018-19 School Year

Following on from the success of last year, some of the FTS officers were once again present at welcome mornings/evenings

We have also continued with the traditional autumn events from September 2018. These include:

- The Prep Quiz and Curry which coincides with the Movie Night – to take place this coming Friday
- The Truro School Quiz and Curry which coincides with the Junior Disco. There were over 100 attendees and the World Aims students made over £200 with donations for a raffle on the night
- The Christmas Pudding making event at the Prep was attended by over 25 people last Friday

2. AREA REPRESENTATIVES

- The system of area reps has unfortunately more or less had to be disbanded as no-one volunteered to take on the role of the area rep coordinator [previously run by the Laura Rundle]

3. TRURO PREP CLASS REPS

- The Class Reps at the Prep continue to be very supportive of the aims of the FTS and to forge strong links between the school community
- Lots of hard work has been put in over the past 12 months by the Class Reps who have always given up lots of their time to make sure that events happen, especially the Christmas and Summer Fairs
- The regular coffee mornings continue to be held for parents every Friday at the Prep, which in particular helps newcomers to the school to become part of the community

4. AIMS FOR THIS YEAR

Developing community

- The FTS is still working hard to be at the heart of the school community and wherever possible to promote a friendly and vibrant community around the school
- At Truro School, the new café has been a long awaited and most welcome addition to the heart of the school, and has greatly helped in creating a community by offering a venue where people can meet on a regular and informal basis, and provide an introduction for new parents and a way for them to meet people in their children's year group.
- The FTS has organised weekly coffee mornings at the café since the start of term and is collaborating with the new Cookery School to put on two FTS events in the second term
- Improved and streamlined communication with the parent community still needs attention. The following progress has however been made:
 - Staff at the Prep Office have supported the FTS by agreeing to sell tickets for events from the office
 - The Events Department at Truro School has assisted with ticket sales, by giving parents the option of paying by BACS or having the cost added to their school invoice, and by fielding email requests for tickets
 - Year group Facebook pages have been set up for Years 1-4 and the Sixth Form, and for Truro Prep Class Reps, and have been indispensable in informing parents about upcoming events as well as introducing new parents to the community
- Events management across two schools has been an onerous task – future FTS Chairs need to be supported by the schools in the administration, marketing and ticketing, of events, with a top down proactive approach across the schools to take on this task, or the position will forever be seen as a daunting and near full time task, particularly in the Autumn Term

All this said, I would like to extend special thanks to the Class Reps at the Prep, staff at the two schools for the support they continue to show to the FTS, in particular to Sue McIntosh and her team, Mr MacQuarrie and his band and DT skills, and for organising the questions at the Prep Quiz Night, and the Events Manager Sarah Knowles.

I would also like to personally thank the FTS team.

I would now like to take this opportunity to extend particular thanks to the outgoing Treasurer Ros Whitelegg, who has totally transformed the way in which the accounts are now presented to the committee. Do not underestimate how hard Ros has worked to produce such detailed and accurate figures and how conscientious she is; the work she has done has taken many hours of her time.

But figures aside I mostly want to thank her personally for her endless support – including some very late night phone calls. I could never have contemplated taking on the role of FTS Chair had she not been by my side in this journey we have been through over the past two years to get the FTS to the stage it is at now. Many heartfelt thanks.

Laura Rundle

FTS Chair

November 2018