

FROGS AGM – 18th September 2023

Chair Report

Introduction

To start off this year's Chair's report we thought it would be useful to explain how FROGS is run. FROGS currently has 13 members, who cover all of the year groups across Goldfield. We have a committee which is made up of the following people: Caroline Weaver, Charlie Owttrim and myself as Co-Chairs, Jo Cowpe is our Treasurer, Sam Bethune is our Social Media and Marketing Lead and Sam Sheldon is our Tech and Website Lead.

We meet on average every 4-6 weeks to discuss our fund-raising plans, although this will be more if we're coming up to a big event. Pretty much everyone in FROGS is a working parent so what that means is that we all chip in where we can. When we run events, we tend to have a lead person who'll be the main organiser, but then other FROGS members will support. We find that this means we can deliver events which we hope the children will love and raise money for the school, but at the same time it means that being a member of FROGS doesn't become too onerous for any one person. All of us understand that we have busy lives and so FROGS members give as much time as they're able too, without pressure.

This year we had a completely new committee for FROGS and so it's been fair to say we've been learning as we go. But we genuinely think (and hope!) that everyone involved enjoys FROGS and that the last year we've only been able to fund raise as much as we have through it being a brilliant team effort.

Key Highlights from last year

We'd now like to move on and talk about what we think were the key highlights from last year. I'm deliberately not going to talk about what we raised or all of our events, as Jo will cover that off shortly, but there are a couple of key events we'd like to call out.

Halloween – last year saw the continuation of the school pumpkin patch and also the Halloween trail. This event proved very popular and due to its popularity it involved a slightly manic last minute pumpkin raid on Tesco's for some extra pumpkins, but the children loved it! We also had an excellent turnout for the Halloween trail, which was great for the children as they knew which houses they could safely trick or treat at - not even the horrific rain dampened the enthusiasm!

Christmas Fair – always a big event in the FROGS calendar and last year was no different. We had stalls for adults, games stalls for the children, a bar very kindly run by the Kings Arms, and of course the extremely popular Hamper raffle. It was really well attended and we hope it allowed everyone to get even more into the Christmas spirit and ready for their Christmas break.

Disco – this hasn't been run at Goldfield for a number of years, and we were blown away at how popular this was. It's fair to say it was the children's social event of the year with a lot of outfit planning and a lot of glowing/ flashing paraphernalia! And of course we can't possibly mention the disco without giving a huge, huge shout out to our very own DJ Boulter who was nothing short of incredible!

GoldFest – we cannot finish talking about our highlights without talking about GoldFest. Thankfully the weather was on our side for this, but wow what a day and all of us FROGS were absolutely blown away by how much we raised. We had some brilliant stalls, a bouncy castle, the amazing Radley who came and did the PA for the day, a live band, Kings Arms on the bar, a few of the Dad's on the BBQ, a fire engine, an ice-cream van and of course lets not forget the reptile petting zoo (where the absolute

highlight for all of the children was the snake weeing and pooing on the carpet!) Aside from all of that GoldFest was an absolutely outstanding team effort by so many people, all of the FROGS were incredible, much fun was had on the walkie talkies (thanks Miss Cooper!) and of course we also had amazing support from parents and teachers. The only problem is how we can top it this year!

What we have spent the money on

When we took over the committee for FROGS we were fortunate enough to inherit quite a bit of money from previous fund raising years. With Miss Cooper being a new Head at Goldfield we felt it was important to ask her what the school needed and what they wanted to use the fund raising for.

To help support with that Jo our lovely Treasurer introduced a process where if the school or a class wants some of the FROGS funds they need to complete a short request form. We then discuss those requests either as the FROGS committee, or with the wider FROGS group to ensure that everyone is supportive of what our fund raising efforts have been spent on.

With this process in place, we're delighted that last year FROGS funded the following for the school:

- Carpet mats for Reception so each child has a clear place to sit at the front of the class
- Contributed to the Christmas pantomime
- Paid for the Little Wandle reading books
- Paid for air conditioning to be installed in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

This Year

We've started our planning for this year and have some great events lined up. We're planning to make more of Halloween which will see the return of the pumpkin patch and trail, but this time we're hoping to include a spooky disco as well! We have big plan for Christmas and are thinking we'll make that a day event and are looking at the possibility of live reindeers and a Santa's Grotto!

We're also looking to run another movie night after Christmas, and we've also locked in our GoldFest date which is the 29th June 2024.

There will be more to come, but this should give you a good idea of what you can expect.

Thanks you's

We can't finish talking through all of this without saying thank you.

We've had some brilliant external support this year. Charlotte and Rob from the Kings Arms have been so generous in their help for FROGS when we've run events. It makes a huge difference to our planning knowing that we have such brilliant support that we've been able to call on - thank you.

We'd also like to thank Radley from coming to GoldFest. Radley provided their PA equipment for free and made a real difference to the day. That alongside Phil's band created such a lovely atmosphere for the day and we're hugely thankful to both for their support.

We'd also like to thank Miss Cooper - your support has been brilliant, we really need it when we're running events in the school, and you have always gone out of your way to help us when needed, so a huge thank you for that.

We'd also really love to thank Lucy in the office, she is absolutely brilliant in supporting us with various emails, lists and all sorts. We're sure we must drive her mad sometimes, but she always does it with a smile on her face!

We'd like to give a special shout out to the two Sam's. Firstly to Sam B who approached us and offered her help with the social media and marketing – thank you! You have been nothing short of incredible with your brilliant newsletters, your social media posters, your creativity with posters, you have made a huge difference to FROGS, so thank you! Then to Sam S - representing the Dads! You have been brilliant with the website and your tech support. You have saved us no end of hours and quite frankly our sanity with what you've been able to do with the website, your support has been absolutely invaluable and has been hugely appreciated.

Finally, to all of the FROGS, honestly each and every one of you has been absolutely brilliant this year. FROGS quite simply doesn't work without you, and the fact that we've been able to raise such an amazing amount, and have so much fun along the way is testament to every member. Thank you to all of you.

How you can get involved

For those of you who are new and have come along hoping to find out a bit more about FROGS. We're genuinely happy to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. As we said at the start we know that we all have busy lives, so we're happy for people to get involved as much or as little as you like. Even if you don't think you want to be a fully fledged FROGS member we're always looking for volunteers when we run events.

Please do come and have a chat with us, or email us if you want more information, any of us are happy to chat to you.

Many thanks,

Nicola Bowmaker, Caroline Weaver, Charlie Owttrim