

FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S JARROW

Annual Report
2022



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Disclaimer

This report covers the period from January 2022 to December 2022. All information is accurate at the time of going to print. Large print versions of this report are available on request. Please contact us using the details on the back page for more information.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Friends of St Matthew's Jarrow annual report for 2022 - we hope you enjoy reading about our activities and achievements this year.



Chair's Report, Victoria Sheraton

With the majority of Covid restrictions behind us, it was back to business as usual for the Friends of St Matthew's in 2022. We were thrilled to be able to plan and deliver some larger-scale events and really bring people together again. One of the highlights of our year was celebrating the Queen's Jubilee with our pupils, their families and the wider community - an event which was all the more poignant following the sad passing of Her Majesty just a short few months later.

As well as the large events, which also included our annual summer fair and our inaugural Christmas Grotto, we focused our attention this year on some smaller scale projects which provided immediate benefit to the children. This included the purchase of zoned playground equipment, providing robotic coding equipment and organising a fabulous Easter Egg hunt for the children. You can read more about our highlights on pages 5-7.

The cost of living crisis has hit the entire country hard. Mindful of the impact this has had, and continues to have on our members, we scaled back some of our planned activities and focused on securing grant funding and less on activities that relied on parents' donations. Although this meant our income was lower than previous years, we recognise that we need to support our families in any way we can during this time. There is no doubt the economy will continue to drive our direction into 2023 as we look to employer schemes and sponsorship for support to carry out our objectives as well as the generosity of our members and the wider St Matthew's Community.



Head Teacher's Report, Eve Alderson

The Friends of St Matthew's (FOSM) are an incredibly proactive and creative group who do so much to support our whole school community. The FOSM raise funds for our school in a variety of creative and engaging ways. As well as the large events, such as the Summer Fair and Easter Hunt, it is some of the less visible work they do that I wanted to draw attention to in this report such as funding small items which our teaching team have on their wish lists, and subsidising our Year 6 leavers' hoodies.

These smaller items are what often have the biggest impact and FOSM work in conjunction with the children and staff of St Matthew's to ensure that all funds raised are always spent with the children at heart. Other examples include the purchase of BeeBots for our infant children, which greatly enhance computing lessons, and working closely with our Playground Leaders to provide resources to improve play times.

That said, what a joy to see so many people back together at events and enjoying the special occasions that FOSM have helped us to celebrate! The Queen's Jubilee picnic and the Christmas grotto were both absolutely fantastic events.

As a school we are extremely conscious of the additional pressures the cost of living crisis is putting on parents and carers and we are grateful that FOSM not only support activities but are doing so mindfully of the current climate. We are incredibly grateful for all the support and fundraising that the FOSM provide.

OUR MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

OUR MISSION IS TO:

'Provide resources, equipment and events which enhance the education and extra curricular activity of the pupils of St Matthew's RC Primary School in Jarrow.'



OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTS ARE:

'To advance the education of pupils in the school in particular by: 2.1 Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school and 2.3. Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.'

HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

In the following pages, we report on how we achieved our mission and objectives during 2022. As a committee, we meet regularly to plan projects, develop our ideas and set fundraising targets, with four formal Committee Meetings taking place a year.

We have forged strong relationships with teaching and support staff, who know who we are, what we do and how they can communicate with us.

We engage with staff, parents and pupils on a regular basis to find out the equipment and extra curricular activity that they want to see and we welcome new members and volunteers from within the school community. We also have a strong social media presence, issue regular newsletters and are beginning to cultivate relationships with other stakeholders including local businesses, the parishioners of St Matthew's Church and local residents.

WHO WE ARE

Our Trustees

Chair: Victoria Sheraton
Treasurer: Yvonne Roberts
Secretary: Rachel Thompson-Chapman

Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are too numerous to mention by name but we would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents, carers, friends and family members who have volunteered during this year - whether that's on a regular basis or a one-off activity - your support is invaluable.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Queen's Jubilee Picnic

As a school and a PTA, we knew we wanted to do something special to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We were delighted to be successful in our application to South Tyneside Council's Jubilee Community Fund and receive £500 towards our Jubilee Picnic.

The funding enabled us to open the event up to the wider St Matthew's Community and, as well as the pupils and their extended families, a number of local residents and church parishioners joined in with the celebrations.

Although the weather was against us on the day, the event was a huge success featuring an indoor picnic, soundtracked by 1950s music, a Portrait of the Queen Competition, a red, white and blue themed parade and Jubilee fun and games including 'pin the crown on the Queen.' All pupils were gifted with a commemorative Platinum Jubilee Coin as a keepsake of the day.

Feedback from the event was hugely positive and the photographs from the day something we'll treasure.



Summer Fair

One of the longest-standing events at St Matthew's is the annual Summer Fair. This year, we were thrilled to be back bigger and better than ever.

The event is open to the wider St Matthew's community and was attended by over 200 people throughout the day. Always one of our biggest fundraising successes, the event raised almost £2,500 which made an enormous difference in getting us closer to our target for outdoor football goals and Library refurbishment.



Christmas Grotto

Having had to cancel our Grotto in 2021 due to Covid restrictions, we were determined to make this year's Christmas event something to remember for the pupils and families of St Matthew's. Our Christmas Grotto was a magical evening with a beautifully decorated Grotto, a range of festive crafts, refreshments and stalls, and a visit from Santa Claus himself and his helper, XXXX, who had gifts for all of the children.



Playground Equipment

We worked with the Playground Lead and a team of Playground Leaders from Key Stage 2 who were keen to enrich break and lunchtimes with some themed playground zones. These included a Construction Zone, a Dance Zone, a Quiet Zone and Small Equipment Zone. We supported the project by fundraising and purchasing equipment including skipping ropes, catch-ball games, hula hoops and outdoor chalk as well as storage and caps for the leaders.



Beebots for Key Stage 1

A direct request from KS1 teachers was to support to purchase Bee Bots - small, robotic tools which are used to teach young children about the basics of coding and computing. We sourced and purchased BeetBots to be used by our Key Stage 1 classes and they've had great fun learning to design maps, make predictions and spot algorithms.



Easter Egg Hunt

Following two years of lockdowns and cancelled events, we were really keen to see the children enjoy the fresh air and have some fun! In the spring, we organised an Easter Egg hunt with prizes and refreshments for the whole school, an event which was so successful, it has now become part of our annual calendar. We would like to thank our local Morrisons branch for their kind donation towards this event.

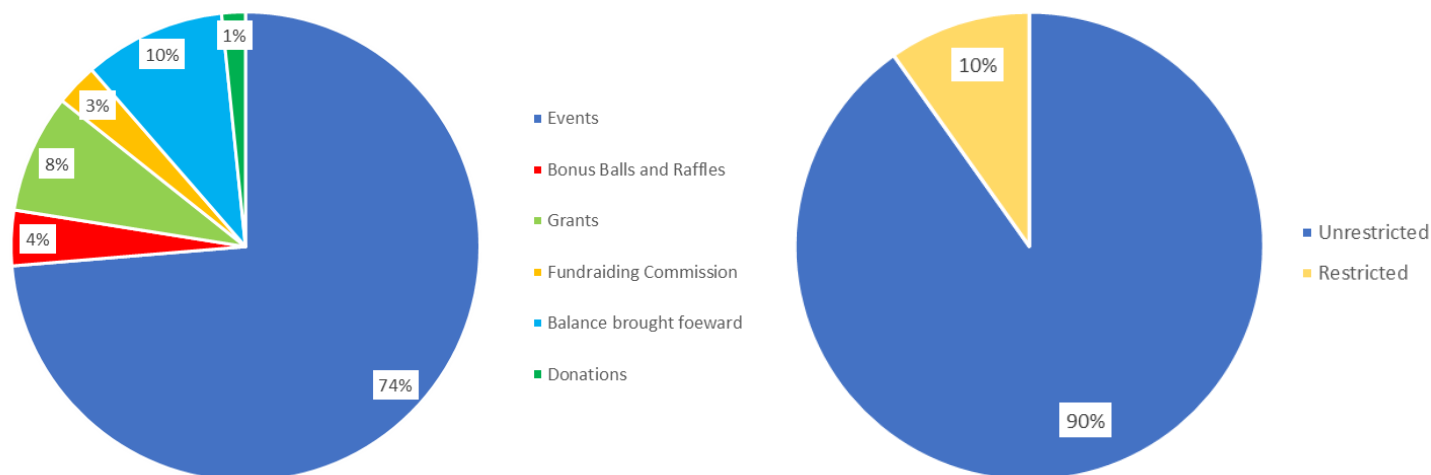


We also: Supported the annual visit from The Holly and The Ivy traditional Christmas roadshow, subsidised the Year 6 leavers' hoodies, held a Macmillan Coffee morning and lots more!

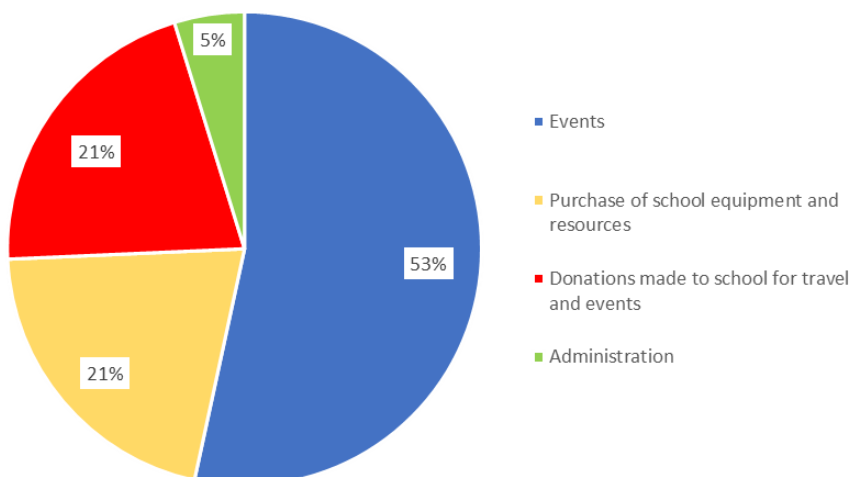
OUR ACCOUNTS 2023

Below is a summary of our income and expenditure. A full set of our accounts can be found on the Charity Commission website and is available to members on request.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



NOTES

Balance brought forward from previous year: £596.55

Total income: £6108.27

Total expenditure: £3351.46

Balance: £2792.81

FUNDERS 2022

South Tyneside Council's Jubilee Community Fund

PLANS FOR 2023

We are looking forward to a busy 2023 working with our teaching and support team, our fantastic pupils and increasing engagement with parents, particularly those new to the school.

In terms of raising funds to achieve our mission, we intend to continue to plan and deliver a range of fundraising activities throughout the year. But conscious that the economic climate is difficult for parents and carers, we also intend to increase the number of grant applications and sponsorship elements of our fundraising strategy. We also plan to focus our spending on a blend of small items which have an instant impact, and larger scale projects which have a long term benefit for the pupils' health and wellbeing. Among the projects we have planned are:

Library Renovation Project: Working with teaching and support staff, pupils and external providers, we will support the overhaul of St Matthew's library, encouraging reading and engagement with books and literature in creative ways.

Outdoor Equipment: We will be looking to set a fundraising target for the purchase of outdoor football goals and other outdoor equipment which will encourage physical activity and focus on mental wellbeing.

King's Coronation: We will support the school's celebrations of this exciting event by providing crafts and other activities for the pupils.

Easter Hunt, Summer Fair and Christmas Grotto: Keen to build on the momentum of 2022, our three big fundraising events of the year will be reviewed and improved for 2023!

Volunteer Recruitment and Organisational Development: One of our objectives for 2023 is to recruit more volunteers and active members of FOSM ensuring the future of charity is secure for future pupils and members of the St Matthew's community.



THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As well as our dedicated Trustees and volunteers (see page 4), we would also like to thank the following individuals and organisations:

St Matthew's Church, Father Saji, Morrisons, Jarrow, South Tyneside Council, Mr Martin Humble, the ParentKind Charity, Suzie Trainor-Richardson, Amy Millar, Anne Thomas, Fran Young, Eve Alderson, Chris Sheraton, and all of the teaching and support staff at St Matthew's RC Primary School.

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