

Friends of Hartsfield School Association Chair's Report 2018-19

Dear Parents and Carers

I am proud to be able to report on yet another great year of fundraising success on behalf of the FHSA! There have been no changes within the committee structure again this year. Myself as Chair, Sarah Berry – Vice Chair, Emma Weaver – Treasurer and Anna Ramsey as Secretary. We have a number of regular committee members who regularly join us at our meetings and regularly team up in working groups to organise a specific event. New members are always warmly invited to come and join us at our meetings or simply let us know if you would like to get involved in any way. We will never turn help away! It's a great way of getting to know other parents, very rewarding and lots of fun at the same time.

I am very pleased to announce that the FHSA have raised an impressive £8957.05 this year!

The first event of the year was Quiz Night. This was very well attended and a real success. We raised an impressive £742.00

In October we hosted the Baldock Community Firework Event. Ticket sales raised a profit of £1344.00 which we were delighted to share out, this year, between the Baldock Nursery Schools. It was agreed by the committee that we should return all of this money back to the community and this was received with great thanks. The FHSA ran our 'glow stick' stall and raised over £491.00 from this for Hartsfield. A few other local charities benefitted from having their own fundraising stalls at this fun community event.

Next, it was Christmas! Our Christmas Fair seems to be growing every year. We raised a staggering £2949 profit! The school was buzzing with festive excitement and we had craft stalls, games, refreshments, BBQ, the amazing school choir, the fantastic Grand Draw with amazing prizes and of course Father Christmas!!

Wrap a Present was our next fundraiser. This, as always, was enjoyed by the children and adults equally. The children had a super time choosing their gifts and wrapping them up with the help of our FHSA volunteers. We managed to raise £889. I must say a huge thank you to Sarah McLaren and Karen Hazleden who have co-ordinated this event for the last 5/6 years. Sarah and Karen are now handing over 'Wrap a Present' to a couple of new volunteers – Please contact me via the FHSA email if this is something you are interested in.

The FHSA purchased a fantastic 'Hot Dog' stand this year and during the winter term Mr Darcy co-ordinated 'Hot Dog Fridays'. Mr Darcy and his team of helpers raised a fantastic £962.00 and brought lots of happiness to hungry children (and adults too!) after school on those cold Friday afternoons. Hot Dog Fridays will soon be returning to our playground!

The Christmas/ winter term is so busy that we took a little break from fundraising for a while and started the spring term off with our Family Fun Sports Trail – this is a really low key, relaxed family event which we run as part of the Baldock Festival. We aim to provide a bit of low cost sports themed fun for an hour after school. We did this and raised over £50.

The Campout took place just before the end of term and raised a superb £1472. Thanks again to lots of hard work from the campout team. 'Hartsfield's Got Talent' returned for its second successful year during the afternoon of the campout – this was even more popular than last year and kept the campers entertained. We had a rounders tournament and a football match with kids and adults – these really added to the lovely atmosphere. The weather was fine and the school field was full of tents and happy campers.

The FHSA provided the ice pops for all of the children during the sports day. The FHSA served refreshments and sold ice creams after school at the 'sports tea', this provided a nice opportunity for children to play and adults to socialise and relax after a busy day of sport. We raised nearly £100 from this.

We were very happy to help by serving the children their squash and biscuits at the KS1 and the KS2 summer discos that the school council kindly organised.

Every year 6 child receives a year book at the end of their time at Hartsfield. Ice cream Fridays, Christmas card sales and the year 6 stall at the Christmas fair all help to fund the year books. Ice cream Fridays raised £1642 and Christmas card sales raised £140. The year books cost £1887. The shortfall this year was only £105 - This was very good considering the year 6 class consisted of 3 classes! We will be looking for a team of year 6 parents to co-ordinate this years' ice cream Fridays – Please email me via the FHSA email if you are keen to get involved – your year 6 children can help with you too!

All of the above enables us to make significant donations to the school. These are some of the 'whole school projects' that we have funded this year; the Planetarium during science week, the Author visit during book week, artificial grass to enable all year round outdoor play, ice pops.

None of the above would be possible without the dedication and hard work of the FHSA Committee and all of our volunteers. We are enormously grateful to everyone who has helped. We would like to offer our thanks to the whole school staff including Mrs Smith, teaching and support staff, the school office and to Mr Darcy for all the time and effort they give to the FHSA over and above their day jobs.

Finally, of course, all of our fundraising is entirely dependent on your generosity. We are continuously overwhelmed by the support at our events from Hartsfield parents, carers and relatives and we hope that 2019-20 brings another successful year of fun and fundraising. Thank you again for helping us to continue to run the events and raise funds to spend on our Hartsfield children.

Nicky Gough, Chair - The Friends of Hartsfield