

FORCES AGM

Chairperson's Report 2015

Following last year's AGM we moved forward with a focus on streamlining events and putting on activities for the enjoyment of the children. We had three main fundraising aims; decking out the den, subsidising of educational visits with the FORCES FIVER and being able to finance the Sparkly Nights Disco.

A shopping evening hosted by Caroline Bligh at Atelier was a lovely way to get into the festive spirit and the raffle gave a positive start to the year's fund raising efforts.

The annual Sparkly Nights Disco was again funded entirely by FORCES and was its usual success. Faces new and old (to FORCES) volunteered making this without doubt one of the highlights of the children's year. This is illustrated by the number of leavers who accept the invitation and return to catch up with the teachers and party with their old class mates.

The aim of the Christmas Fair was to Deck out the Den and support the funding of this reflection area. This event was extremely popular. Funds raised may not be as high compared with previous years but there was a deliberate focus on spreading out the event to limit the congestion and putting on a range of affordable activities for the children to get involved in. Mr Bishop and family superbly helped keep the boys entertained with their Nerf gun antics and we were well supported by many new parents to the school who ran a Frozen Craft corner. The chaos of splatting Santa, memorising festive items, picking winning lollies and having a spin at the ever popular tombola was matched by the serenity of the Roecliffe Beauty parlour which was run by expert nail artists, facepainters and incredible hairstylists! This event could not happen and could not raise the funds it does without the support of the Roecliffe parents and staff who all contribute either by making generous donations, putting together a stall, baking, serving and attending. This is also a great opportunity to get the children in class 4 to take on responsibilities such as putting together an activities but also gives them confidence when handling money. Jo Rudland Simpson did her usual magical job of transforming the library into Santa's grotto. Her attention to detail is just incredible. Funds raised were just over £500 which is in line with the average profits in previous years.

A new event was launched in the Easter term with a movie night. It was great to see the children enjoying socialising with their friends enjoying their movie snacks and snuggly up on cushions in their onesies. With a couple of adaptations this is a relatively easy event to run as long as there are enough parents to serve refreshments and monitor the toilet run. As was our main aim for the year it the children had an enjoyable time.

FORCES representatives have run the book sales organised by Mr Bailey and these are an excellent initiative to ensure our library is kept up to date with engaging and appropriate titles.

I am delighted to report that we have been able to support all school trips with the FORCES fiver however as the accounts show this money is still to be drawn down. This included the residential visit to London and we committed to supporting this year's visit to Marrick Priory.

Roecliffe parents rally superbly to make our cake sales a fantastic success. Each class always produces a hearty bake sale and members of FORCES step in to set up and man the stalls. Undoubtedly these underpin our fundraising efforts and produce a steady income.

A return of the Roecliffe Quiz was planned for the summer term but unfortunately circumstances meant that this didn't happen. Laurence Bishop has generously offered to be our quiz master (ensuring he is not winning the prize!) and I really hope that my successor takes up his generous offer as this evening provided an opportunity for all parents to socialise. Other than the quiz masters undoubted efforts it is a

straightforward event to run, the main emphasis being on pre-selling tickets to ensure enough attend to create the best atmosphere.

Incredibly Sports Day occurred on the first day scheduled and the FORCES team baked some delicious treats to accompany teas and coffees. Donations were generous and Jo Hans did a fantastic job of compiling a list of volunteers willing to be part of a FORCES mailing list and to be contacted when help and ideas are needed. I recommend that this is quickly updated with any new parents who have joined the school since September.

The year was capped by the performance of Matilda's and the totals raised through the wonderful refreshments are reflective of the deserved recognition of the hard work put in by Stephen Jarvis and his teams of volunteer bakers and servers. The end of year performance is an ideal opportunity for FORCES to work collaboratively with the staff and students to ensure we can financially and physically help towards this fantastic conclusion to the year.

As last year I am very grateful to Helen Allan for volunteering to run the coffee morning to welcome to new parents. Some parents also escaped to the Grantham Arms one evening and it would be great to see an increased number of social events on the FORCES calendar.

We have tried varied times of days and days of the week to facilitate a higher attendance at meetings but no matter when meetings are schedule FORCES struggles to get together larger numbers to discuss and plan events successfully. I recommend that FORCES meetings are published in the school calendar and held routinely such as the first Tuesday of the month.

After a year as vice chair and two as FORCES chairperson I am still committed to supporting events and would happily run activities such as another movie night, put together a Roecliffe Recipe book using family favourites and contributions from all the children and jointly planning a Roecliffe Ramble Sponsored Walk. It is the overarching role that I would like to resign from. I would recommend the future committee to delegate leadership of fundraising activities to volunteers and continue discussion with the headteacher to raise funds to subsidise or fully fund tangible experiences or resources such as the forth coming trip to Chitty Chitty Bang Bang which support a School Development Plan. We are extremely fortunate to have Elizabeth providing the constant, diligent administration of our accounts and I would like to thank for her work in accounting and dedication to all things FORCES.

I am also very grateful for the support of the school and willingness to listen to ideas and help communication between FORCES and the parents. Sue Houseman has done a fantastic job, collating, listing, counting, sticking... the list is endless and I am particularly grateful to Mrs Dalton. We are very lucky to have a headteacher who so strongly values the work of FORCES and is willing to participate in the coming up with ideas and the facilitating of events. What many don't see is the time spent communicating well after hours and I am very grateful for her dedication in supporting our work.

I have been very fortunate to have had team of FORCES parent volunteers who have approached any events I have overseen with such enthusiasm and have willingly driven ideas forward and no matter how busy they are have committed to ensure the PTA can enrich the learning and school experience of the children at Roecliffe. I have enjoyed supporting the school in this role but it is time for someone with renewed energy to move FORCES forward.