

## FRIENDS OF CLARE PTA TRUSTEES REPORT APR 23 – MAR 24

Friends of Clare PTA associated with Clare Primary School in Tandragee have had a very successful fundraising year. The PTA had been at a standstill for a few years due to the Covid pandemic and we wanted to ensure we built up some funds to use for the school to use towards the benefits of the school, the children, their education. We wanted to help the children progress their emotional and social development, as well as ensure local community spirit and engagement.

In April we held a community quiz and this was great fun for all involved. We ensured the cost did not isolate larger families and the ticket price included food for everyone. There was a lot of community spirit as well as some healthy competition going on. Lots of local businesses small and large sponsored the event in return for getting some publicity on the evening. This alongside the ticket prices and the prize draw made it our most profitable event of the year.

In November we decided to do a sponsored event. Fitness Freddy came to the school to do a sponsored danceathon with the children. All children had sponsor sheets and asked friends and families to help them raise funds. The children had a great time and were very tired by the time the event was over!

Last year we were successful in gaining ABC council funding for an external AED to be fitted, where costs of the item and installation fell in this financial year. Friends of Clare members painted the front of the school in preparation and had the area well prepared for the installation. The Lord Mayor of Armagh came to open it for us and have a photo opportunity with the headmistress and some of the children. This AED is necessary in a rural setting such as this with lots of farming communities locally and housing developments built close by.

The funds Friends of Clare raised this year were used to both support the school infrastructure and assist the school in building community links. We paid for the P7 leavers hoodies for 2 years, as well as our Parentkind membership each year. The funds paid for the school buses to bring the children to swimming lessons. We bought resources for the classes from a local nursery that was closing down. We also funded items for the outdoor play boxes so the children had extra items to play with during break time.

One of our most successful things to have funded was a full school trip to see the Pantomime at Christmastime. This was the first full school trip in many years and the children had a brilliant time. Friends of Clare had a party bag for every child with sweets, crisps, chocolate, slap band and a printed reminder of their day.

The children of Clare Primary have been very thoughtful and ensured that they made thank you cards to all of the local businesses who donated goods, food or money towards any of our events. The headmistress, teachers and pupils alike have thanked Friends of Clare for their help and fundraising which has helped the school to purchase items for events which would have been outside of the budget. We hope to continue to support the school and local community in the coming years.

Trustee report written on behalf of all Trustees of Friends of Clare Primary by Chairperson, Audrey Docherty.