

Felixstowe Town Council Grant of £500 to the Friends of Fairfield and Colneis charity

Who are the Friends of Fairfield and Colneis?

The Friends of Fairfield and Colneis Parent, Teacher & Friends Association is a charity, run by elected volunteers who work to:

1. Develop effective relationships between staff, parents, community and others associated with the school.
2. Fundraise to provide facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

Why did we need a grant?

The Early Years team at Fairfield Infant School identified that many children are starting their primary education without the muscle strength, control, hand-eye coordination and balance skills that are needed in order for them to develop as writers. They believe this may be down to parent's lack of knowledge of the importance of gross motor play and exploration, the increased focus on tablets and phones and parent's lack of time.

As a result of this there is a huge need for the development of pre writing skills in Reception in order for children to be able to develop in their writing skills throughout their primary education.

Children learn to control their bodies from the centre outwards and from the top downwards. Babies build up their neck muscles so they can hold up their heads, then the trunk muscles so they can sit, and finally the whole body control and balance required for walking. Children need a substantial amount of trunk strength in order to write, because they must support their bodies, neck and head while staying relaxed. Arm and finger control follows the same pattern, at first a child will be able to manipulate the arm from the shoulder joint; gradually they understand how to control the hands; finally they learn how to make the fine finger movements needed to write.

Large scale equipment helps young children develop these skills, through strengthening their core and trunk muscles, developing balancing skills and hand- eye coordination.

How has the grant been used?

The grant has been put towards the purchase of outdoor equipment as shown in the image below. Below are some pictures of the children benefiting from it along with some of their comments!

This equipment has been chosen for it's long lasting nature so hundreds of children would be able to benefit from it for many years to come. Research shows the early years of a child's life can have a significant bearing on their overall life experience; Therefore providing this equipment will affect the children's lives positively for longer than just the time they are in reception.



"I think it's great. It's just the right 'tricky' because we can practise and get exercise"

"It's so much fun and will help me get strong"

"We can move it around to make it easier"

"It will help with my balance and to get stronger"

"I love jumping and the grass means I don't hurt myself"

"I have to use my muscles to move it around"

"We have to work together to move the big parts"

"That's really hard, but I did it"

We are extremely grateful to Felixstowe Town Council for their grant of £500. Thank You!

The following is a thank you that was included in the School newsletter:

News from Reception



The Reception children had an exciting delivery of some brand new outdoor climbing equipment to support them with developing their gross motor skills. The set is designed to be moved about to create different trails to climb and balance on. Safe to say the children absolutely loved it! We took a few perceptions of their experiences and here's what they said:

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"We have to work together to move the big parts"

"That's really hard, but I did it"

We would like to thank Felixstowe Town Council for their grant towards this equipment.

