

This has been an unusual year for the school. We had a strong start in 2019 with new newsletter tool Constant Contact in trial use for more effective communication, and revival of our online accounts in Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For the first time in years we had a marketing plan in place to attract new pupils and volunteers, as well as targeted advertising for our key fund raising events such as Christmas Bazaar. Unfortunately Covid-19 in March 2020 put our school on hold completely, with UK lockdown forcing us to cancel last six school days in the spring term.

The committee held communications via email, online via Zoom, and in person, as necessary. A start of term meeting was held in September 2019 together with the teachers. Communications were made as inclusive as possible, and often over email and WhatsApp, for the committee members rarely had a chance to be present all in one go due to professional and personal commitments outside the school.

The committee members 2019-20 were:

Tiina Winnan (chair)
Federico Catasta (treasurer)
Anu Palmer (co head teacher)
Marjut Liverpool (co head teacher)
Sanna Pettit (vice chair)
Paivi Amar
Maria Armishaw

There are currently no co-opted members. All activities of the school were represented with Tiina Winnan representing the shop in addition of being the chair, Sanna Pettit the café, Paivi Amar the library and Fede the treasury and banking. Anu Palmer and Marjut Liverpool were the key liaisons towards teaching in their role as co-head teachers.

The special events of 2019-20 were:

Traditional Christmas bazaar (Dec 2019)
Finnish Christmas Carols (Dec 2019)

2020-21 is going to be an uncertain year as we try and keep the school relevant and retain students and volunteers during the continuing Covid-19 crisis. Committee has already agreed to cancel Christmas Bazaar, our main fundraising event, as well as provide only remote Zoom classes in Autumn term, plans for Spring to be determined as the situation develops. Our main objective should be to continue to provide connectivity to Finland and resources to our students, even if we are not able to offer physical classes and school day experience.

Tiina Winnan
Chair