

## Chairman's Report 2019-20

It's been a strange year for FOSC this year with the effects that the Coronavirus pandemic has had on our usual fundraising events.

Annette Dorman continued in the role of Vice Chair and Alison Aldrich has continued as secretary. Julie Hughes took on the role of treasurer and has settled into the role.

In the last school year Sep 19- July 20 months FOSC has finding creative ways to raise money for the school and keep our school community spirit alive.

We have organised

- Christmas Bazaar with games and stalls for everyone to enjoy
- Christmas photos from children performances
- Christmas shop so that the children can buy parents a secret gift
- Christmas gifts for all the children delivered by Father Christmas
- Quiz Night for Parents to have fun and build community feeling
- Spring Discos / Party for all the year groups
- Personalised Child designed Mother's Day Gifts
- Socially Distanced Relay to brighten up what was a bit of a miserable term.
- Launched a school lottery to help boost funds through tickets sales to families and relatives.
- Recycle reuse page to help parents find new homes for unwanted good quality items
- Bags2School Collections to help parents clear out and raise extra cash
- Second hand uniform sales and subsequent donations to HELPING charity

We funded

- A trip for the whole school to enjoy a Pantomime at Hertford theatre in December 2019
  - Raised £12,000 to buy the school 60 brand new Chromebooks
  - Leavers books for Y6 leavers
  - Party for nursery children
- If FOSC didn't raise the money we do these things wouldn't be possible.

We had planned

- To enter a team in the local Annual Dragon Boat Race
- Summer Fete and Discos and leavers discos

(Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus pandemic these events could not take place.)

Our Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar are the main events in our calendar – both are always well attended by families and friends of the school so we have missed out on lots of fundraising this year missing out on many of our key events. The raffles are a big part of these events and we really do appreciate the help we get from parents sourcing some amazing prizes. Our Christmas Bazaar (and usually Summer Fete) are sponsored by local estate agents Keith Ian who have donated £100 cash prize for our raffle plus £200 to FOSC for estate agents board and advertising our events.

Fund Matching is a very simple way for us to raise extra funds, we currently have 2 parents who assist us via their companies but we would be very interested to know if there are any other parents whose company's run this scheme. Please ask me for more info on how this works.

We would welcome ideas from all parents on new and interesting ways raising money for our children and our school – if you have any ideas please let me know.

Thank you to Mrs Leslie and every member of teaching, support, maintenance and admin staff who give up their time and energy to support our events. Thank you to Annette Dorman and Alison Aldrich who are a great support in roles of Vice Chair and Secretary. Thank you also to Julie Hughes for all her hard work keeping the books up to date and managing payments from our funds.

We are always keen for new parents to get involved and maybe take on responsibility for specific events. Please let me know if you would like to help. It's actually quite good fun to be organising events or to serve refreshments, run a stall, or see the kids enjoy themselves at the school disco. You get to know the children and other parents too.

FOSC now have ways of taking payments and donations online which has been really beneficial in the current circumstances for helping to collect funds and avoid handling cash.

Whilst I am chairperson, my ethos has been for FOSC to be a community of people, creating fun events and whilst raising money for the school. I hope you and your children can see the good work we do and will support us in the months ahead.

Finally I need to add is a MASSIVE THANK YOU to all the parents who have given up time for the benefit of the children and FOSC. None of these events would be able to happen without your help. With your help we look forward to another fun packed year in 2020-21.

This will be my 5<sup>th</sup> and final year, in the role of Chairperson, due to personal circumstances I cannot commit the time it takes to continue after the summer term ends. We have achieved so much together and created some incredible events. I will really miss the role. I hope that there are other parents out there who would be up for the challenge of continuing taking care of FOSC and creating more exciting fundraising events for our children to be part of.

Annie Mitchell, Chairperson – Friends of St Catherine's School

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