



Friends of Fernhurst Primary School

Friends of Fernhurst Primary School Chairs Report May 2023

The year May 2022 - May 2023 has embraced the return of a normal calendar of events and fundraising throughout the year. It has been wonderful to welcome new members to the committee, bringing our total number of Trustees to 10. My enormous thanks on behalf of the school community for your willingness to be part of the team that makes up Friends of Fernhurst School.

The role of FoFS as defined in our constitution is to: advance the education of pupils in the school in particular by:

2.1 Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school.

2.2 Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

It is widely appreciated that our school, like all schools across the country, faces increasing bills with a static Government budget. Schools are funded on a model of 30 pupils per class, and whilst many of our classes benefit from being smaller than this, we must be realistic about the financial pressure the school faces to maintain 7 classes. In the past FoFS fundraising has funded the 'nice to have' items. Going forward FoFS must assume that we are funding many of the 'really need to have' items and do all we can to ensure engagement from all members of the school community to help this happen.

A key success of 22-23 has been the development of ways for association members (all members of the parent and staff body are automatically members of the association) to help FoFS achieve its aims that do not always require the donation of money. Half termly non-uniform days have continued, and whilst financial donations have been appreciated these have often embraced a focus on donating pre-loved items that can be used as tombola prizes. Our work parties were revamped from being monthly events to termly, with a fantastic turn out of over 30 families last month. In one day, an incredible amount of work was completed on the school site including: gardening, hedge trimming, sorting cupboards, cleaning and organising. There was a wonderful community feel to the day with many promises of future help made. With quotes for regular grass or hedge cutting reaching into hundreds of pounds, it is essential that our school community strive to continue supporting the school in these ways.

Whilst the fundraising aspect of FoFS is paramount, the social and emotional side has remained just as important.

- The summer term 2022 saw the continuation of Freeze Pop Friday which has restarted again for Summer 2023. Thank you to Kirstie Bull, Emily Rowley, Ashleigh McCurrie, Tessa Crowder and all who volunteered with this.
- Revels in May 2022 was sadly extremely wet and windy, however there will still a great many visitors and good sales at our toy stall on the day. Hopefully next weekend's Revels will be full of sunshine. Thanks to Susie Williams and James Crowder for their efforts with this.
- The Summer Party at the end of term 2022 was very well attended with good profits on the toy stall, cake stall and raffle. Volunteer numbers were lower than hoped though, so this, alongside ensuring good value from the wristbands, will be addressed for 2023. Thank you to Kirstie Bull and Emily Rowley for enormous amount of work to pull this event together.
- The turn out for our Autumn and Spring Discos were high, with the separating into KS1 and KS2 very successful. Thanks to Tessa Crowder and Susie Williams for coordinating these events.
- Christmas 2022 was busy as ever with record sales of Christmas Puddings from our friends at Crossways Fruiterers, excellent uptake on Christmas Cards and a very well attended Christmas Party. The tradition of



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giving every child a Christmas Gift continued with all children receiving a wrapped book from FoFS. Thanks to Susie Williams and Katherine Bedson for organising this.

- Cake Sales were moved from Friday nights to Mondays and continued on the pattern of two sales per year asking for donations from Muir & Attenborough House in the Autumn and Thunburg & Tree House in the Spring. Donations were high and the sales were very popular. Thank you to Lucy Chapman for ensuring these events ran smoothly.
- The end of the Easter Term 2023 was celebrated with the Y2&3 production, during which FoFS sold ice-creams, and a whole school Easter egg hunt, with an egg for every child provided by FoFS. Thank you to Emma Cotton and James Crowder for organising these events.
- Astra recycling continues to be a low maintenance and environmentally friendly school fundraiser, coordinated under the watchful eye of Louise Chalmers.
- Second-hand uniform now has a dedicated and accessible cupboard at school. We need a volunteer who can arrange for the uniform boxed to be laid out regularly in Year 4 for parents to access.
- The use of wish lists for purchasing items needed by school has proved very popular and will continue going forward.

A long running goal of the committee has been to move across to online banking. Thanks to the efforts of James Crowder as Treasurer, this has now happened.

We have also been amazed by the support of individuals such as Louise Chalmers who organises sales of pre-loved items and donates the proceeds to FoFS, and Alexis James who organised a cake sale over the bank holiday weekend to raise funds for FoFS. Both have been invited to work with Mrs Thornton on deciding how the money they have raised can best support the school.

As we move into the summer term and prepare for Y6 moving on, special thanks must go to our longest serving parents who will be standing down from FOFS when their children leave at the end of this term. Anna Ward and Hannah Porter have taken on many roles over their time as parents at FPS. On behalf of the school community, I thank them for your support and dedication.

On a personal level I am delighted to welcome Anne-Marie Coleman (parent to Henry in YR) to the committee who together with Susie Williams (parent to Farley in Y4) will take over the role of Chair. It has been an honour to serve as Chair since 2019, but I could not have achieved anything without the support of all committee members and the dedication of our headteacher, Jen Thornton. The last 4 years have seen great change throughout our school and community. We have worked together through Covid and come out the other side stronger and committed to working together for the benefit of our children's education.

It is a privilege to now be part of the teaching team, and I look forward to continuing to work with the FoFS committee in that role as you continue the work of supporting the school. My sincere thanks and best wishes to you all.

Lana Kelsey
Outgoing Chair

May 2023