



Chair's Report for FSA Annual General Meeting

Friday 24th September 2021

Introduction

Foxton School Association (FSA) is the name of our Parent Teacher Association. It brings together parents and teachers who are interested in supporting the School.

Research has shown that parental involvement has a significant impact on a child's achievement at School. When children see us engaged in school life and their education, it encourages them to do their best.

The FSA supports the School in raising funds for equipment, events and trips to enrich the children's education. We also aim to bring communities together by organising social events, which act as fundraising opportunities.

In the past we have contributed to the cost of trips (including to Madrid), provided a shelter for the area outside the Fox Cubs classroom, and bought new library books and new curtains for the School Hall.

The Committee

The current committee comprises Katie Freer (Chair-Elect), Tessa Francis (Treasurer-Elect), Mrs Frow (Teacher Representative), Vic Davinson, Binta Shapiro, Fran Dalziel, Carol Bootheway, Debbie Sibley, Annie Rogers and Anneli Clarke. We currently have an unfilled committee role for our Secretary.

We meet informally around once a month with the focus on fundraising ideas and how to organise them. Meetings have been held virtually during the pandemic, but we had our first in-person meeting for a while one evening this month at the Bell Inn in Gumley.

While our primary aim is clearly to raise welcome funds to enhance the opportunities and experiences of our children, becoming part of the FSA is also a great way to get to know other parents and teachers while gaining an insight into the workings of the School.

Every parent has plenty to offer to the FSA, whether it's being on the committee, bringing fresh ideas, helping out at events or organising meetings, your talents will be put to good use. **Please don't be put off if you feel you can't give your time regularly, haven't been asked or are unsure what's involved; we value and appreciate all help.**

Review of the past year

Fundraising activities have clearly been limited over recent months due to the pandemic. However, we have maintained an active presence and have managed to raise funds by various means. The biggest fundraisers were:

- Christmas hamper raffle
- 5p challenge
- Easter raffle
- Big Summer Raffle

Over the last year we have funded craft materials for School and bought Sports Day medals for all children.

This year we want to expand on this and we will be looking to parents and teachers for ideas.

Planned fundraising activities

With Covid restrictions now being lifted, we are able to plan much more for the coming year. Scheduled events include:

- October: Pre-loved sale to be held one weekend day in the School Hall
- November: Christmas clothing sale
- December: Christmas raffle and Christmas cards designed by the children

We plan to spread activities out evenly and to arrange events that are mutually beneficial. We are conscious of not asking for money constantly and are aware that this is not how parents want us to run. We will research possible grants and big fundraising schemes and will find easier ways to contribute to smaller projects, such as donations through online shopping or options to partake in online raffles.

In order to ensure parental engagement with the FSA, we plan to undertake a survey to find out how parents would like us to operate.

If anyone has any ideas for how to raise money, suggestions for what we need at School or information that might be relevant to the FSA we would love to hear from you!

Thank you to everyone who has given up their time to help the FSA in the last year and looking forward to working together over the next academic year.