



Chair Report FODS AGM 12th September 2022

Welcome and Overview

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending this AGM.

We all counted our blessings this past year as we finally emerged from the social restrictions placed on us by the pandemic, fully embracing the opportunities for FODS to resume doing what it does so well – organising exciting and engaging fundraising events for the benefit of our children and bringing us together in the spirit of fun.

To this end, FODS has had another stellar year and I'm incredibly grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers for their unfailing effort and achievement – you really are stars. Furthermore, I extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents, carers and sponsors for your continued support. Every time you pop a pound into an envelope, buy a book of raffle tickets, bake cakes, generously donate prizes, offer your child's school uniform items for resale, set up trestle tables on a stall, do the cash and carry shopping run, or, volunteer your time to run the bar at one of our events, you enable FODS to succeed and we appreciate each and every contribution you make. Likewise, our school-based events much loved by the children simply could not take place without the effort and goodwill of the staff who pull out all the stops in a busy teaching week to make these happen, so thank you all.

FODS has made excellent progress in overcoming two key operational challenges we faced at the start of the year - by significantly augmenting our volunteer base and securing higher levels of engagement with our volunteers, as well as improving and tailoring our communication channels. Achieving this strategic objective has made it much easier to resource our fundraising initiatives this year, but we'd still love for more of you to join us. The ideas, enthusiasm and commitment that a strong and diverse team of volunteers bring is the fuel that FODS runs on, and the more of us there are, the more we can achieve. There are many different ways to get involved which don't require a big time commitment and are always a mutually rewarding opportunity to become more involved in the wider life of the school and have some fun in the process. Please take the opportunity to join our FODS group on Facebook and please do reach out to any of our committee members for details of how to join our message groups. We'd love to hear from you!

The committee will soon be busy planning a full programme of fundraising events for the year ahead, and mindful of the prevailing cost of living pressures at play FODS especially values your support this coming year and will strive more than ever to ensure an appropriate range and phasing of its fundraising events and initiatives.



Fundraising Events Highlights 2021/2022

The accompanying Treasurer's Report provides a full financial breakdown of all our fundraising activity, the funds from which were gratefully received by the school to purchase resources to improve the play areas and enhance the children's Koinonia morning experience.

We thank Alice Atherton for running her Wreath Making events, Laura Oakes for setting up and managing the Uniform school uniform resale initiative, Cath Salt for organising the school disco, Beth Newby for the Christmas mug and novelty item sale, Sharon Baker for the Bags2School initiative and all our star volunteers who supported them.

Here are a few more highlights ...

- *Christmas Fun Afternoon* - which was widely supported and provided much needed fabulous festive celebrations for the children. A big thank you to all parents and carers for supporting this, and particular thanks to the teachers and staff, Alice Atherton, Beth Newby, and their organising sub-committee who made it all happen. *
- *Fizz and Fashion* – now firmly established as a FODS tradition was well worth the two-year wait to see this sell out event return. Seeing our very own gorgeous catwalk models strut their stuff, seeing those prosecco bottles lined up on the tables and hearing the applause and laughter was just electric. It couldn't have happened without Sarah Potts and her A1 organising team – thank you all. *
- *Jubilee Event* - the sunshine, fun, laughter and togetherness of this event resonated with so many of us, especially as it was the first 'whole school family' event since the pandemic. The celebration was the brainchild of Louise Comley and Joanna Williams, and they worked their socks off to make it the success it was, supported by dedicated bar, refreshments and stall teams – thank you all. *

**Grateful thanks always to our generous sponsors, teaching and support staff, parents and carers for supporting this event*

Closing Remarks

It's been really gratifying to see FODS go from strength to strength this past year with a bolstered and invigorated volunteer base, and I look forward to seeing that number grow again this year so that we can continue to achieve our fundraising ambitions to deliver much valued projects that our children will derive enjoyment and benefit from.

Wishing everyone a successful and happy year.

Anne-Marie Marshall
FODS Chair