

FOSS Chair Report – AGM - 22nd November 2023

Back on 14th November 2022, the Friends of Sissinghurst Primary School (FOSS) held the 2022 Annual General Meeting and elected the new generation of committee members.

This year FOSS has had a change in officers which was a new Chairperson. FOSS has shown patience, enthusiasm and a comardery managing to raise funds to support the school in what was a new transition. When evaluating the past year I would just like to say a big thank you to all members, officers, parent volunteers and teachers in being supportive with this big transition. All of your efforts and dedication to further enriching the lives of pupils at our beloved school is a testament to you all.

Just a little statement from your previous Chairperson he has sent his gratitude to those who continued the mission.

The challenges that were apparent when joining was finding enough volunteers for the events and recruiting but as the time has gone on we have gradually gained more members and I am confident more will join this amazing team. FOSS gives me such warmth in my heart to see all the wonderful members new and “old” come together and fundraise lovely events for our children to cherish. The amount of work that goes on behind closed doors is an absolute testament to you all and you do it with such enthusiasm, it has been an absolute pleasure to be Chair.

Whilst there have been a good number of fundraising initiatives and events held over the past year, I would like to take this time to give special thanks.

COOP Funding

As a result of Amy Vine’s hard work, FOSS were awarded more funding which is the total of £4,105.48 , this was put to good use for outdoor enhancements for our school.

Thank you Amy for all that you have done for the school which has helped enrich the childrens’ experiences, it is really appreciated.

Coronation picnic

An event in history to remember. This spectacular event brought everyone together to celebrate this occasion, the children had so much fun in preparation for this event and this was down to all the volunteers who made tremendous effort and time in making this happen, I would like to say a huge thank you to Catherine, Francisca and Lottie for putting the beautiful hampers together, Katie for making the unique and personal apron prizes for the cake competition and of course our judges for the cake competition Catherine and Francisca.

Y6 Leavers Graduation

This year our Leavers graduation was outstanding; this event was truly appreciated by both parents and children. The amount of work and preparation that went on to the lead up to this event was amazing, a memory that will be very much cherished by the families.

I would like to say a huge thank you to both Catherine and Katie behind the planning and preparation of this event making sure nothing was left unturned, Katie for the preparation and serving of the food it was 5 stars and had wonderful feedback from all and a huge thank you to both your husband and son who also join to help serve it was truly appreciated.

Catherine for making sure the children had a fun at the main disco with a huge variety for sale at the stalls, thank you as well to your children helping to set up the stalls which went down as a massive hit. Sold out within minutes! Cisca and Catherine thank you for setting up and making sure everything ran smoothly for our Leavers event. It was honestly a night to remember!

A huge thank you to Amy Vine and Jill who produced the lovely touching Leavers books to cherish, we also had wonderful comments about them how personal they were. Also to Ning Bunyan thank you for the beautiful photos you captured during this event, memories for a lifetime.

Other fundraising activities

Throughout the past year we have carefully considered what we have asked of parents due to the cost of living, with this in mind our other fundraising activities included:

School lottery

Lions welcome picnic (Francisca thank you for your delicious brownies)

Ice lolly sale sports day

Ice lolly Friday sales

Class tea towels

Christmas pantomime

All my own work Christmas craft (Catherine thank you for your dedication and time in organising this, the children's artwork was spectacular!)

Christmas shopping day

Christmas quiz

Flower show donation

How FOSS is supporting the school

Through our fundraising activities FOSS has been able to provide enriching events as well as help financially support the school, this is the list for the past year FOSS has either fully funded or contributed to:

£4,000 for KS1 books at the beginning of the new school year, September 2022.

School discos

Leavers event

Leavers books

Christmas pantomime

We also sent the final £2,840 from the first Coop donation to school.

The year ahead

FOSS has had great success in the events they have organised with support from members, parent volunteers and school staff.

I believe that slowly FOSS is expanding with more volunteers but for us to spread the load more and hold more of our wonderful events we still need to grow. FOSS will this year create a fundraising thermometer which clearly communicates to parents the goal we are working collectively towards, this is a good clear way to show the progress and what the donations are going to.

Thank yous

Finally, I'd like to thank our volunteers, Lottie Anderson, Amy Vine, Rebecca Watson, Jen Willis, Dena Sharp, for their continual support throughout the year, from organising events and class stalls, your contributions and time is greatly appreciated.

To the existing committee members Catherine Farragher, Francisca Denyer, Mike Piasecki and Katie Cox, I want to say a huge thank you, you have supported me from the beginning in this wonderful transition and been so welcoming, you are the backbone for FOSS your dedication and enthusiasm is what keeps FOSS running smoothly. On behalf of everyone within the school thank you for all your hard work.

Mike Piasecki thank you for your service to FOSS you are truly appreciated for all your work as Treasurer and a reliable team member. We are sad to see you go, but on behalf of everyone we wish you all the best for the future.

Kayleigh Skinner, Chair, Friends of Sissinghurst School Association (FoSS)