

FOBS AGM 20th October 2021

Apologies: Sam Cooke, Venetia Ellvers

Mrs Morton:

Thank you for the fundraising for the Wellbeing Room. Consider new reading books YrR -Yr6 across the school. Govt has changed its phonics scheme and from April we have to use an approved provider with phonetically decodable books up to Year 6. £2-2500.

Discussion regarding COVID measures, closing the school on Friday 22nd October, potential for bubbles on return from half term for a week.

Chairman Welcome

Reflection on the year. Duck Race, Christmas Cards, private donations, fund matching, and lots of fundraising planned for this coming year. Jo Dorans is going to be stepping down so we will need a new chairman.

FOBS is fundraising for the school, anything additional that the school can't fund itself. Everyone is a member of FOBS as soon as your child starts school. We raise money for buildings, resources, the little things they might need in school. We do big and small fundraising events. Scaled down in the last year or so because of COVID. We've gone back to basics, doing fun things for the children. Our theme for this year is to get as many parents involved as possible and making it social, as we have not been able to do that with new families. Jo is interim chair, Alix is treasurer, Julia is secretary, and ordinary members, Kerry, Venetia, Sam and Michelle.

Chairman is a job with a great team behind you – not a job you need to do without support. Need someone at the head to be the link between FOBS and school, tick the boxes and sign the cheques!

Finances

Alix – It was a quiet year, but we didn't do too badly. Second year of pandemic we created a number of events for the families to enjoy. Christmas shop, Christmas cards, wine tasting, duck race and plant stall at Binsted fete. Money raised toward wellbeing room. End of year £113 up from last year. We currently hold too much money in the account, and we are not meant to hold that much money, just over £5k. We should be holding just over £1500 so it's good to hear Sharron asking for money but we need to encourage her to ask for more. Ideas for what FOBS could spend the money on. Statement of account have been reviewed and signed off by Katie and Lisa. Other monies came from private and corporate donations. We thank everyone who has supported us in these uncertain times. If there's a fund matching scheme or charitable fund at your company, please put our name forward.

Free ways to fundraise include; Amazon Smile, Easy Fundraising – online shopping schemes.

Will advertise again on facebook group and website to advertise this. Clothes recycling bin – we get £40 per load for that for the school. Whatsapp groups are the best current way of getting information out to parents.

We could do an idiot's guide to setting up Amazon Smile or EasyFundraising.

Top Money Makers

Donation William Grant £1200 – charitable fund.

Virtual duck race £469

Christmas Shop £199

Plant stall £184

Only operational expense we had was membership PTA UK (Parentkind) £69

We gave £900 in the last financial year for each class and gardening equipment. £1842 to the wellbeing room.

Wellbeing Hub just over £10k cost to FOBS to date. It is finished but the nice furnishings need to be done next.

Jo – It went over by about £10k because of COVID and the cost of supplies.

Minutes of The Last Meeting

Look at the constitution – how FOBS is set up as a charity. This needs to be done. Also, when we looked at the playground equipment project we wanted to do a mugger (all weather pitch on field). Need to decide whether to continue with that.

Tarmac often do charitable donations, which Jo looked into but there were new bridleways done in Kingsley so they gave the grant to them.

We did a wish list of what school wanted – this will continue this year. We have asked the teachers in the past if they need anything for their classrooms.

Bank has changed – HSBC are closing the counter service and as a PTA we need access to cash for events. When we have the discussion about the constitution, Barclays had a charitable account, but you can only have three people on the charity trustees list to prove you are a small organisation. They don't charge you for any services but need to check number of trustees on constitution. Have been looking at other banks. Co-op named as best charitable bank account. Not currently taking on new accounts. HSBC has been fine, but the loss of the counter service is a problem. Maybe we need to look at how we are going to get money for our events in future. Have signed up for an app called BOPP for cashless events and then just a tiny amount of cash we can get from the post office.

Kerry – suggestion of asking the class and the children what they would like for their classroom that they can then open in school and get excited about.

Wickham is back up and running again – the Whatsapp groups are working really well, we should keep that going. There are a few new children in the school this week, so we need to capture those parents.

Whatsapp Group Leaders.

Henrietta R

Maria 1

Kerry 2

Maria 3

Sam 4

Venetia 5

Julia 6

New Chairman

We need new blood, encourage new parents to come forward and share new ideas with children further down the school. We're a group of mums, carers, workers – it is very relaxed and informal.

Need to encourage parents to get involved with FOBS. Mention FOBS at the beginning of all events. Speak to parents at the Wickham. Be nice to have a pre-Christmas mince pie. As a new parent, where should we hold it? New Binsted pub?

Alix happy to be the link person between FOBS and school and remain as treasurer but cannot do both. As long as the committee are still prepared to step up and support, we could survive without a chairman. Has to have treasurer and secretary but doesn't necessarily have to have a chairman.

We could potentially have a chair and a vice chair and committee shares the duties of the chairman.

What are the chair's duties? Link between school and committee, run the meetings, pulling things together, making sure things are done as they should be done for the charity.

Emma Winhall – happy to help financially in some way, as treasurer, that's her background. Writing cheques, making it all balance, set up new bank account. Emma and Alix will have a chat and see if Alix could be free'd up for two years and could potentially become chairman.

Secretary – Julia

Treasurer – Alix/Emma

Ordinary Members:

Lucy Ambache

Kerry Wilson

Michelle Stephens

Henrietta

Aimee McLeod

Alice Budd

Adam Threadgill

Mary Pedder

Anna Bond

Fundraising Plans

Christmas Cards – Whatsapp groups close to deadline of 31st October.

Christmas Raffle – Big prizes, minimum value £10. Worth putting messages out to see who out there would be willing to contribute prizes, vouchers, experiences etc. Selling tickets over a period of time. Alix to look into lottery licence for that and get proper tickets printed out. Sell tickets online as much as possible.

Another meeting thrash out fundraising plans.

Hot chocolate night – we want to invite parents to that to have a drink and be sociable while the children listen to stories.

Christmas shop – set up in hall, children can buy individual presents for family, not expensive, simple gifts. Can take home and put them under the tree. Monday 13th December. Anna is happy to help and so is Henrietta. Sam is leading.

15th December KS2 lessons and carols with mulled wine, plan to draw the Christmas raffle in church that day but we would need to ok this with Sharron.

4th December 2-4pm Santa's Grotto at the Wickham/Church.

We want to do a quiz after Christmas, big event for 2022 Feb/March time.

Plan not to do too many events but do fewer very well.

Year Group fundraisers, each half term each year group organises a fundraiser. They will need a bit of help with that, cannot be the responsibility of the teachers. Need to delegate a person per year group to go in and talk to the children about what they were going to do. Asking Year 6 to help with the Christmas Shop and work backwards, so Year 5 will be after Christmas.

At the next FOBS meeting we can discuss new ideas.

Michelle – wants to organise a '**break the rules day**' after half term.

Mad hair day – rock star day new suggestions.

FOBS Money to School – Wish List

Books request from Sharron

Alix – would love if FOBS could provide out of curriculum things like subsidising school trips, circus day, that kind of thing.

Jo – very good idea once necessary gap of books is covered. School tends to know the children whose parents struggle with trips. FOBS money was to be for the good for all the children, not to say we cannot change that.

Alix – could subsidise entry or travel costs, benefit all the children. Could pay for education providers to come in for a day, like science days.

Suggestion of music days like African drumming.

Good to have a focus of what we are fundraising for.

Jo and Sam could organise a collection for the staff for Christmas. Michelle to test the water on Facebook to see what peoples' appetites are for this.

All agreed we could give money towards phonics books. Jo – why don't we say we give £2000 and have some left over for buying stuff for Christmas shop etc. We could say the raffle could also go towards books. Getting wish lists in addition would be nice way of doing that. All in agreement.

AOB

Alix – Uniformly, a way of people advertising their kids' school uniforms to sell to other parents and all or part of the sale can go to FOBS.

Finally – a HUGE thank you to Jo Dorans for stepping in as FOBS Chairman in the last year and doing such an amazing job, and for getting the necessary planning permissions for the Wellbeing Room.