

FOSI Annual Report 2016/17

(Report to Take us to March 2018)

Background and Purpose

Our PSA, which is better known as Friends of Southbroom Infants (FOSI), has been in existence for many years and is well supported by parents and teachers of the school to raise money for additional activities and resources to benefit the pupils.

Charitable Structure and Governance

In 2016 FOSI re-gained its registered charity status. It's charity number is 1168179. Until very recently the PSA was made up of five main committee members and meetings required an additional 5 members to maintain quorate. Going forward the structure is likely to remain as the temporary structure has been since early January 2018 - a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. This will mean that 3 additional members will be required to attend the AGM and any other formal meetings where decisions that have a big enough impact to require an official vote be made (mainly financial).

Highlights from the Past Year

Highlights of the past year have included a Seaside themed Summer Fete, which was a great event. Children could enjoy a subsidised donkey ride, play in the sand or sling a seagull. Breakfast with Santa created a magical atmosphere and proved again to be a very popular event with the children, as were the Autumn Disco, Valentines Disco, and Sing-a-Long Trolls Film night, all of which the children have greatly enjoyed.

One of the most successful events of 2017 was the Christmas Fair, which raised over £1,300. An improvement from the 2016 fair was the location of Santas Grotto, which was decorated to a very high standard. We also kept the timed slots for visits which reduced waiting times significantly.

The Quiz night more recently was really well attended and over £300 was raised, more importantly it was a fun filled night for all to enjoy.

Special Thanks

In addition to the committee members, who provide invaluable help and support, FOSI would like to extend special thanks to Helen Fishlock and Carol Martin for being such an essential and effective link between FOSI and the school and for gathering help from other teachers and staff for our various events. Thanks also go to Caroline Jackson, our Head Teacher, and the school office staff for their continuing support. We would like to thank Val Wiltshire for doing such a fantastic job as our Easter bunny, and of course to Santa Tom for volunteering his services at our festive events.

Recent Feedback

Feedback from the school and families has been that they have enjoyed and appreciated our events, this is evidenced by the fact that they have been increasingly well supported.

Feedback from our own volunteers include:

'The committee is efficient and communication excellent. Rapport and relationship between FOSI and school is good. Feel appreciated as a FOSI member. When unable to help due to other commitments, not made to feel guilty but likewise when we can help it is much appreciated. As a parent, my child enjoys me being part of FOSI. It shows I care about them and their school.'

'After being part of previous committees and seeing how underproductive they were, how irrelevant the conversations were, how absolutely nothing got done and unbelievably pointless I thought they were....I was so massively impressed by FOSI on my very first meeting! I saw before me a group of parents/teachers who were so enthusiastic to do stuff for the school and all that the school encompasses, the excitement was written over everyone's faces. I was made to feel really welcome instantly and everyone was super friendly. After being with FOSI for just over a year, I've tried to help with as much as I can and I've enjoyed every moment. I'll relish the next few years I get to spend with you all!'

'I like being a member of the FOSI committee, and helping out the school community where I can. I appreciate the low pressure of being able to help where I can and not worry if I can't. The monthly meetings are really useful for keeping us all in the loop with what is going on and what is coming up, and the chair and treasurer are both really friendly and approachable, and happy to assist with any queries. I think the work FOSI does is invaluable to the children of Southbroom Infants School.'

'The school very much appreciates the hard work and commitment of the committee and all those who help out in any way. This year there have been many enjoyable events for children and adults which has resulted in an amazing amount of money being raised. These funds benefit all our children, for example the visit of the space dome this week. We could not organize these sorts of activities with all your fantastic help and support to fund raise and make the school a great place to be! Thank you FOSI!!'
(Feedback from the school).

Funds Allocation Process and Decision Making

We will continue to bring any funding requests for allocation of funds to committee meetings, where they will be discussed and voted upon. Benefits of each item will be considered and treasurers input required. Any person associated with the school can make a suggestion for how the funds are spent. FOSI send out a newsletter which asks for input and suggestions on fundraising and how to spend our funds. The committee require a full and accurate quote based on the actual item/s or service they would like to purchase in order for the request to be taken into consideration.

Dates of our events are discussed with the school via our teacher liaisons, checked to ensure they don't clash with Southbroom St. James events and agreed by the Head Teacher before being confirmed.

How the PSA Involve Local Businesses and the Community

FOSI invite local businesses to showcase their products at school fairs and promote their businesses via our raffle when donating prizes. All members of our community are invited to attend our Summer and Christmas fairs and annual quiz.

How have FOSI Funds Benefitted the School

In the summer term of 2017 FOSI put money towards the Year 2 trip to Steam. More recently FOSI have funded some site radios for the school, which aids communication. They have also funded a 'Space Odyssey' (Space Dome), which will compliment the space theme which the children have been working on.

The library has been revamped, some of the soft furnishings have been funded by FOSI. The Reception outside area has also been rejuvenated, FOSI put money towards the materials.

We also can't forget the schools tradition of going to the pantomime, FOSI paid for the coaches again at the end of last year, which made the trip more affordable for the children to go on.

Plans for the Year Ahead and How can Volunteers Get Involved

FOSI currently has plans for Easter events at the end of spring term. Moving into Summer, dates for a Rags to Riches clothing collection, Leavers Disco and Summer Fair have been confirmed. Looking even further ahead a Christmas Fair, Autumn Disco and other events are in the early planning stages.

Volunteers can get involved by contacting FOSI email address which is included on all posters and the FOSI newsletter, or by contacting any of the existing committee members.