

Friends of Melbourne Primary School Chairs Report 2022-2023.

I am pleased to present my first chairs report for the school year 2022-2023 for Friends of Melbourne Primary School, I am immensely proud to be part of this wonderful committee and I am reporting on a phenomenal year of Fundraising.

Although she is not here, I would like to give a special thanks to Becki Adams for all her hard work and dedication to FOS over the last 11 years, she has been a fundamental part of this committee and we can learn a lot from her.

I would like to thank each and every member of the FOS committee for their hard work behind the scenes and at every event we have held. You are a vital support; we couldn't do it without you all.

I would like to thank all the non-committee helpers that have stepped up at events as these could not run without the support.

Our wonderful Agnetha who has so kindly stepped up to our treasurer role will go through the financial report for this year in detail so I will just highlight our achievements.

This Year we have raised an incredible £8421.78.

This last school year we held 3 very successful discos, Halloween, Valentines, and the Summer Disco, which were greatly supported by the school community. I hope you all agree that the revised timings and the format of these make it a lot easier for us to run and is better value for the parents. The use of Pay360/School Gateway has been a brilliant addition to the smooth running of these events.

We held 2 Bags2School collections which again our school community supports whole heartedly.

The Monthly Prize draw is a constant income stream and helps us engage with the wider school community and I think this is crucial to keep going.

The Christmas period was a very busy one for FOS, behind the scenes and at events.

It was fantastic to return to Carols in the Playground last year and the turnout was amazing. The Chilli Hotdogs were a huge hit, we learnt a lot from that event and ways to improve it for future years.

The decorated sweet bags in return for dress down day was another huge hit and helped with the success of Carols in the playground. We are so grateful to parents for donating these sweet bags, but we do need to encourage parents to check what is submitted is in date and the items are wrapped, as it takes a committee member a lot of time to sort through and replace items from these kindly donated bags. The generous donation of a mini break at Acorn Glade led to us doing a pre-sale Christmas Raffle with other incredible prizes, this was a huge fundraiser for us with minimal committee impact.

Thank you to all for the Christmas Wrapping of the Books from Santa I know the

children all love to receive their gifts, and this is just one small way all children in the school benefit from FOS.

Attending the Nativity performances is always a treat for parents and grandparents, FOS was able to provide a mini raffle at each performance which provided an additional income and some jovial competition amongst those attending.

After a busy Christmas period, FOS had a well-earned rest only holding the Valentines disco the following term.

The Easter Raffle was another well supported hit, with the purchase of additional Easter Eggs we ensured all children and siblings were also able to purchase an Easter Egg, I would like to thank the school community for this support and supporting those children with allergies ensuring they were also included in this raffle.

The Summer Term was another busy one for FOS, behind the scenes we were busy preparing for the Summer Fair, Summer Disco and Year 6 Leavers Hoody's. It takes a lot of committee time preparing for these events, but the funds raised, and the enjoyment of those attending make it so worthwhile.

We were incredibly lucky with the weather for the summer fair where we raised £1000 for FOS. We were delighted to add additional elements to the fair this year, including a DJ, a bouncy slide, the uniform stall, the ice cream van and a return of Cheers and beers bar who generously covered the cost of the bouncy slide. We trialled a new way of providing the hot pork rolls this year, thanks to the amazing donation of pork joints from Nick and Amy Harris, we were all able to slow cook these joints for the event. This saved us the butchers and cooking costs of a whole pig. However, we sold out which is fabulous for us, but some were left without their hot pork rolls so we would need to cook more next year, depending on the weather!

As chair for the last year, I have learnt a lot and I am so grateful for every person that steps up to help. As a committee I would like us to build our members where we can. If members of the school community don't feel they can help with the set-up stages for events, we could look at a separate group of FOS helpers at events which would relieve some of the pressure on the same group of people and allow them to enjoy the events we host.

This year Friends of Melbourne School has supported the school by:

- Having 24 new iPads donated to the school through contacting local businesses for donations and grants and using funds already raised by FOS for supporting this project.
- We purchased a new watertight shed for Early Years.
- We purchased reading books for each class due to the changing syllabus.
- We provided each teacher with a budget to create an inviting reading area in each room.
- We provided the book cupboard in the playground.
- Book gifts from Santa
- Christmas Crackers at the school Christmas Dinner

- Ice Pops at sports day
- Book Bags for Reception Starters