



Friends Of Brailes School (FOBS)

Annual General Meeting - online

Tuesday 11th June 2024, 6.30pm

Co-Chairs Report: Alice Murray & Claire Johnson

Welcome to everyone and many thanks for joining the FOBS online AGM tonight; we really appreciate your support and thank you for giving up your Tuesday evening to log on!

We've had a really enjoyable year taking over the "FOBS reins" from last July and slowly learning the ropes, getting acquainted with the running of the committee and planning various events throughout the year. It's been a pleasure to work alongside James, our very competent Treasurer, Emma, our wonderful Secretary and our co-opted committee member, Selina, who has been an invaluable member of the team, predominantly guiding us on the social media side and excelling in all things creative. Claire and I couldn't have done any of it without our fellow committee members so our deepest thanks to you all for your time, smiles and dedication and also to all of you, the parents and wider FOBS committee for all your support, volunteering, advice and feedback surrounding our programme this last year.

We welcomed everyone back to school in September with the traditional FOBS "coffee and croissants" in the playground which is always a fun and informal way to catch up with parents and to introduce ourselves to those new families joining the school. Luckily the weather behaved and we didn't get blown away or rained on.

Our main event of the autumn term was star gazing which was held towards the end of October, just before we broke up for the half term. Huge thanks goes out to the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group who arrived with boundless enthusiasm and had us all, pupils, parents and teachers, all spellbound by what we were seeing through their incredibly powerful and high tech telescopes. We saw the Milky Way in all it's glory, Jupiter and Saturn and the ever powerful moon with all it's craters and

contours. Emma also ran a very popular "crafting station" after the talk where the children made their own zodiac tea light jam jars and had a go at experimenting with chalks to create their versions of the Milky Way. All of this was enjoyed alongside hot chocolate and homemade star biscuits and galaxy chocolate brownie cake which needless to say slipped down a treat. This was a really well received fundraiser and would make a great annual event.

Towards the end of the autumn term, everyone's focus was swiftly turned towards Christmas and the Nativity play and carol service. FOBS were present at all three festive events, selling mince pies, mulled apple juice and hot drinks. We then ended the term with a small fundraiser, "FOBS Festive Fun Day" which proved to be very popular and hopefully low admin for the parents! Each child paid 50p per fun item of their choice which included: Christmas socks, tinsel crown, festive face paint etc It was a good opportunity to veer away from the focus on festive jumpers and provided the children and families with other options. We then rounded off the last day of term with an informal "Festive Family Meet Up" at The George pub in Brailes which was a great way of bringing together anyone who was free and in need of a chat, cuppa or something stronger! Tracey, the landlady of The George, continues to be a huge support and advocate of the school and always opens her doors to us with a big welcome so huge thanks to her and her team for always being so accommodating.

Mary Cole from Glebe Farm also deserves a mention and shout out for her pumpkin sales and always offering her produce, with the proceeds going towards FOBS.

The main focus of the Spring term 2024 was the school raffle which was held on the 20th March in the school hall due to unfriendly spring weather. A huge amount of work and preparation went into this event, from sourcing all the prizes to finalising the raffle booklets, getting them out to parents, logging returns whilst keeping within a tight time frame! We sold more tickets than ever which was fantastic and some local businesses, in particular Baldwins the newsagent, did a great job selling tickets to the wider community. We had some fabulous prizes, including a lot from loyal local businesses who continue to support us year after year. Just over £2000 was raised which will go towards replacing the playground canopy which we are hoping will be installed by the end of the autumn term.

Sadly, another main fundraiser for us, The Three Hills Walk, which normally takes place at the beginning of the summer term had to be postponed due to the wet weather. We are very much hoping to still run this event, alongside The Three Hills Committee, in September but details TBC.

Regarding other events for the summer term, we're excited to hold a disco in the school hall which will involve two time slots, the first for years 1/2/3 and the later slot for years 4/5/6. We will be providing light refreshments and are hoping that a parent with impressive DJ-ing skills will step forward to man the decks.

We are also hoping to run a second-hand clothing sale as there is a lot of stock up for grabs and will bring the ever popular, ice lolly sales back to the playground when the weather shines down on us!

A huge thank you again to everyone, families, staff, the wider community and especially Mrs Childs for her ongoing dedication to raising money for the school. We'd also like to give a special shout out to the

Stour Valley Lions Charity who have generously awarded the school £400, following on from our successful grant application (thank you Selina!), to enhance the playground. Every penny raised this last year has gone towards our children's learning and building on the resources that are already in place and adding to them; these include class allowances, trip allowances, Read Write Inc books and playground equipment/canopy.

We've had a great year, raised over £3k but feel ready to hand over the FOBS reins to a new committee that will take it forward with fresh ideas and we are 100% here to support them in their new roles.

Alice & Claire