



Friends of Brailes School (FOBS)
c/o Brailes C.E Primary School
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Monday 31st March 2025

Dear Members,

Further to our last letter, our Zoom open meeting on 27th February, we want to share our current direction of FOBS for the future.

Firstly, thank you to those who joined our Zoom call, completed the survey, or reached out with your thoughts. Unfortunately, we received only six surveys and had two attendees, reflecting a small portion of our school community. We understand families face many challenges, and while FOBS is important, it is low on the priority list for many. Engagement in taking part in FOBS events is fantastic and we are extremely grateful for your continued support. However, the challenges are resulting in few volunteers to help the committee lead and support events which remain tricky for the committee to do each time.

To date, we have had no new members express interest to join the committee for 2025/2026. This remains an open invitation, and we welcome any member to come forward. Voting will take place at the AGM in June. A change in the constitution last year means we now need a minimum of three individuals to form the committee.

The current committee continue to feel that FOBS is hugely beneficial for the school, our school community and our children and therefore in the absence of a new committee and to continue FOBS for a further year, the current committee have discussed putting themselves forward again for vote for another year. However, we must point out that our own circumstances are also challenging and changing, and we are unable to continue to lead, without help, the scale of events we have this year which we will need to continue to raise our £4k goal and current pledge.

We will be continuing our conversations with Mrs Childs to see where we can amend our pledges slightly to help maximise our fundraising i.e. exploring Amazon Wishlist's to help those who wish to help donate to school resources.

As it stands currently, we are hopeful that our collective fundraising efforts to date and for the remainder of this academic year will enable us to fulfil our pledges for 2025/26. However, we will need to consider reducing in subsequent years should our fundraising efforts not raise the required £4k yearly aim.

We are so grateful to have the support of a group of parents who have offered to hold a disco on our behalf next year and assist us with this year's Easter disco. Without their support, we would have had to cancel this popular event.



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We ask all families to reflect on how they can pledge their time to one event. For 2025/2026, we propose each class takes ownership of leading at least one event, such as a cake sale, lolly sale, name the teddy, silent auction, 100 square, bottle tombola, raffle, sponsored event, or an enterprise-style project for the older children. A small event which can be done in your own chosen time and require minimal organisation.

Common comments raised during the survey, are addressed below:

1. **How will event leads link with the committee/trustees?** FOBS is a charity. The committee remains overall responsible for events run, ensuring they are safe and compliant. We have resources and templates for every event, and we will provide ongoing support and oversight.
2. **We would love to help but have childcare issues.** We understand this struggle. This year, children have helped their parents while volunteering, proudly wearing "Mini Helper" aprons. We can tailor events to suit our needs and schedules, holding on a day where childcare can be supported by family/friends. There are also events where physical presence is not required, such as sponsored events, sending emails for raffle prizes, 100 square, silent auctions, etc.
3. **What hours would be involved?** This varies by event. We have templates ready to amend, so no one starts from scratch. For example, a cake sale requires minimal preparation and about 40 minutes at the end of the school day. Getting raffle prizes involves sending emails at your leisure. Volunteering for the Brailes 3 Hills Walk involves one-hour slots serving refreshments, cake, taking payments, or clearing up.

We are all members of FOBS because our children attend Brailes School. The school community and everything we do helps create childhood memories and supports our school with the resources needed to provide the best education possible. We hope you understand why it is crucial to tackle this issue and find a workable solution. Closing the PTA would be detrimental and missed by many. Restarting it in the future would also require significant effort by a newly formed committee. We currently have a successful PTA committee with fantastic engagement by our members and the public at our events, but we desperately need more hands to help run them. Hopefully together we can help make FOBS continue to be sustainable for the future.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Kind Regards

Selina Hosell (Co-Chair), Mary Cole (Co-Chair) and Susan Capper (Secretary)

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