

Chairs Report 2017

FOO has been set up to raise money for the children of the school to benefit from in addition from the funds available from the school, and became constituted in 2016.

In the constitution FOO has identified that it is to raise money to improve the playground facilities in both Infants and the Juniors playgrounds. This has been the goal since 2015 and through grants and hard work FOO is starting to see this come to fruition.

2016 / 2017 has seen very little change with the committee for FOO – Just the secretary and treasurer changing roles for a few reasons. This has worked well and to the strengths of the committee. FOO have continued to welcome new active members, and pleased to see we still have the support of longer term members. This year FOO have purchased and supported the school in many different ways just a few are mentioned below:

- £3000 contribution to the playground.
- Year 6 Production.
- Magician for Year R Christmas party.
- Discos and Kids own room.
- School fairs.
- Mince pies for the Carol concert.

The committee is so appreciative of the support that is offered by every parent – either volunteering and helping at events or just supporting by attending or bringing children to the events. We appreciate everyone's support no matter how small. We welcome any feedback on events that we put on positive or negative feedback allows for the committee and members to reflect and learn from mistakes, or build on successes.

The new DBS process is now led by Andy Biss and this appears to have settled down, as all established volunteers are now up to date. Whilst we all know about the additional stress this may cause it is essential for the safety of our children and is just following Hampshire CC policy.

The FOO box remains in reception and would like to thank people who do post ideas in there and to those who use it during times before fairs for raffle tickets and lucky envelopes. Facebook has demonstrated its challenges this year but there is a hope that lessons have been learned from this and the separate group was created for this reason to keep it locked down and out of the general public domain. However FOO is made up of Teachers and Parents / Carers and we must all remember our primary focus which is to raise money for our school to enable the children to have additional opportunities. Please respect others, we are all a team and we all need each other.

Minutes are sent through parentmail and via email if required. These can also be posted on the group if there is a need for this. New ideas are welcomed however they come whether it is through facebook, FOO box, face to face or at meetings – I would ask that these ideas are put forward to Nicci and myself to ensure ideas are heard and communicated appropriately through the right channels.

As a PTA we remain in a lucky position to be continually supported local businesses – lots of raffle prizes donated for both the Summer and Christmas fairs from local businesses and organisations.

Our strong links continue with the CO-OP and Testwood Baptist Church, which are essential to FOO's work, school community and fundraising for the school. .

The School playground improvements have been started but we do feel there is more work to be done. A grant for £1000 from Aviva Community is due to be paid in to the account on 20th Feb- this is for the Sensory and Wildlife gardens. The project was clear in setting out the timescales, budget and the plans to execute the project including stakeholder involvement required from children, parents, staff, governors and FOO. This space will improve an outside space for children requiring some time out but also for children wishing to investigate and learn about the world around them. Our plans for the year to come are at the moment the same as previous years. We intend to continue with:

- Discos – summer disco?
- Kid own rooms
- Summer and Christmas fairs
- Quiz nights

We are still waiting to hear about carnival this year – If it goes ahead we will look at participating, which is not to raise money for our School, but is good fun for children and the adults and is a great example of us being part of our local community.

Discussions about Oakfest had started and a grant from Big Lottery Community fund was made but unsuccessful – would people be interested in something smaller tagged onto the Summer Fair?

I personally would like to thank members of the committee for all of their hard work over the last year and the support they have offered me over the last few months. Nicci, Donna and Karen thank you for everything. This will be the last year we will be a team as next year Nicci and myself will be standing down as our little ones will be moving on to Testwood. In December 2017 we will be looking at getting some names together for people who wish to be considered for the committee – if anyone is interested in finding out more please ask us.

Thank you to everyone who has helped at a disco, fair or event over the last year – we really couldn't do it without you all, we hope you enjoy helping too.

On behalf of our committee we would like to thank everyone for all of your support and please remember ALL parents are automatically members of FOO, you're always welcome!!