



FoSS Annual (Virtual) General Meeting
Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Present – Andrea Foster (AF), Claire Hart (CH), Gemma Ogle (GO), Suzanne Osborne (SO), Rachel O’Neill (RO), Emma Turnbull (ET)

Apologies – Penny Bliss, Charlotte Douglas & Naomi Hunter

1. Event overview (AF)

AF summarised events from the previous year. Prior to lockdown, the wine tasting and fashion-recycling event had raised £355 (January 2020) and £298 (February 2020) respectively.

Following the start of lockdown in March 2020, fundraising moved online. The sponsored walk changed from being a group event to individual family groups walking at any point over the summer, raising £795 plus gift aid (totaling £927). This is something we would be keen to try again in whatever format restrictions allow. Following this was the Halloween event, raising £255 and the Bags2school clothes recycling, raising £108 (from an incredible 360kg of clothes). Christmas events were also online, with a hugely successful wreath night (thanks again to Charlotte Douglas for leading the tutorials) raising £804, children’s Christmas cards raising £80 and the hamper/children’s Christmas tree event, raising £396.

It is uncertain as to what will possible in 2021, though it is hoped that we will be able to continue to raise money. See attached report.

2. Financial review

PB was unable to attend the meeting, as such, AF summarised the year’s finances. Over the year, a total of **£3218.02** was raised, of which **£1828.60 was profit**. It is hoped to move all finances online though this has been delayed due to current Covid-19 restrictions. See attached report.

3. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

CH has very kindly agreed to oversee our accounts. Many thanks in advance.

4. Spend plan (RO)

RO summarised spending to date and looked at some of the spending that is annual and already planned in for future years. She mentioned that school budgets would be tighter moving forwards due to projected numbers, hence

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stressing the importance of FoSS contributions to supplement the school budget for additional purchases that enhance the curriculum for the children. Annual contributions to EYFS and KS1 by FoSS makes a huge difference to resources, as well as art and craft supply money. The school will be looking at money for replenishing science equipment over the coming year. Laptop/ipad repairs continue to be required to keep technology usable as well as subscriptions to a variety of online resources, both for teaching and planning and for publications such as First News and National Geographic. Image theatre is noted to be an annual treat for the children (although sadly not this year). It is hoped that this can be repeated, as this is the idea of FoSS money, to provide additional experiences/supplement resources etc. that otherwise would not be possible thereby enhance the children's time in school.

Discussion about outdoor classroom. RO said that school were able to keep the tent currently provided by Mrs English and that it was ideal for their needs. There was not the enthusiasm about a permanent structure because of cost and limitations on use due to curriculum requirements for class 1 and 2 and the realities of being outside school with groups of children and returning for toilet visits etc. Concern over potential mis-use by the community was also an issue that had been experienced recently on school property.

SO mentioned that money assigned for consumables in school was never fully used and, while we appreciate how careful staff are to be sensible in their purchases, there is extra money that is allocated to each area and is available if further resources would be useful. RO spoke of the careful planning that goes into resourcing topics, buying items that will last etc. so as to minimise spending.

5. Event planning (AF)

Discussions around possible future events, all dependent on restrictions at the time. As such nothing definite as yet.

- Easter event. Possible Easter bonnet parade with decorated egg competition (similar to the Halloween event where parents bring eggs/bonnets to avoid extras from home inside school). Possible home clothes on final day of term. ET to investigate Easter eggs from local shops with the hope of one small egg for all children and larger eggs for prizes. Possible £5 cost to cover all.

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- Virtual wine tasting with tapas. SO discussed recent online wine tastings with Rev Helen Savage including the most recent with tapas as an optional extra from Mathieu Bureau (<http://www.cestparteat.weebly.com/>). NH had spoken to Helen last year and she was positive, so need to speak to her with some dates and the possibility of including tapas as an option.
- Sponsored walk – in the summer again, giving flexibility of families doing it individually or together if rules allow.
- Treasure hunt around Slaley. ET discussed possibility of involving Slaley Hall, also the flexibility of it being individual households or in groups.
- AF mentioned the possibility of a lockdown book of art/writing produced by the children in school. RO suggested that the children in school possibly don't feel as much in lockdown as they did the first time round when school was closed, but that she would mention it in school.
- AF mentioned the possibility of a family cookbook also/instead of the art/writing that could be sold to parents but also in the village shop perhaps.
- Quiz night – virtually or face to face.
- Summer fair – It is hoped that a summer fair will be possible in some form this year, ideally in person if restrictions allow.
- Self-portrait fundraising – perhaps on a tea towel or tote bag (sold at summer fair or online).
- Leavers' hoodies for year 4s. Same company as Christmas cards would make them.
- Discussions about a possible school science week with different outside agencies delivering different workshops over the week, perhaps in conjunction with Whitley Chapel. Possibility of different themed weeks in the future.

6. AOB

- AF mentioned the possibility of purchasing goal posts for the field. RO said that school do have goals but that she wasn't sure why they weren't on the field but would investigate with Mrs Julie. Talk of a possible future school football team, perhaps in conjunction with Whitley Chapel.
- Possibility of promises auction/ceilidh. Difficult to know of options right now but not something in the immediate future, next academic year at the earliest. Potential of incorporating a promises auction into a wine tasting online.

Actions

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- ET to speak to local businesses about contributing prizes, eggs to an Easter event.
- SO to speak to Mathieu Bureau/Rev Helen Savage re wine tasting possibility.
- RO to speak to school staff about possible future events, goals.
- AF and SO to pull together planning for Easter event.
- Further discussions on events as the term moves forward and restrictions ease.

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