

Friends of Melbourne Primary School Chairs Report 2023-2024.

I am pleased to welcome you all here for the Friends of Melbourne School AGM for the Year 2023-2024, It is wonderful to see so many people here and new members for FOS. I am immensely proud to be part of this wonderful committee, and I am reporting on another phenomenal year of Fundraising.

Although they are no longer part of FOS, I would like to give a special thanks to Janna, Rowan & Laura for all their hard work and dedication to FOS they have been a fundamental part of this committee, and we will miss their valuable contributions.

I would like to thank each 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.

Our wonderful treasurer Amy will go through the financial report for this year in detail, but I wanted to say a huge Thank you to Amy as she is stepping down this year but for taking on this role and doing so well with it, FOS events and FOS itself would not run without all her hard work.

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, and we hope the donation per kilo goes up again as we had a really good haul on the last one.

The Monthly/School Prize draw is a constant income stream and helps us engage with the wider school community and I would like to thank the new members who highlighted ways we could improve this and make it more accessible to new parents and their input has had a huge benefit this year.

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

Carols in the Playground in the Hall last year was different and very changeable last minute, in my 7 years on FOS I don't think we have had rain on a Carols night! Thank you to everyone who co-ordinated and made sure the event was a success. The Chilli Hotdogs & Nachos 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. The generous donation of a mini break at Ball Hall Farm Wigwams 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. And as agreed we will advertise this more widely this year to ensure that parents & grandparents are aware and bring in the cash!

Thank you, Sarah, for organising Santa's visit and all her hard work on the reselling of School uniforms.

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

The Easter Egg Raffle was another well supported hit, with the purchase of additional Easter Eggs & Allergy friendly options we ensured all children and siblings were also able to purchase an Easter Egg.

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.

Due to committee members time and availability this year the summer fair was a bit different as we didn't do the food and that has been our biggest fund raiser in previous years. I think we can all agree that it was still a success, and we gave back to the children and school from this.

The book sale co-ordinated by Vicki and Becki was a great idea and generated a good return so thank you for taking the lead on this.

This year Friends of Melbourne School has not done any large purchasing or projects, but we agreed to keep a large proportion of our funds for the new School play equipment, but we have supported the school by:

- Glockenspiels
- Teaching Supplies for 24/25
- We purchased reading books for each class due to the changing syllabus. Young Voices Coach 23
- Ice Cream Van for school
- 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
- Co-funded Year 6 leavers hoodies

My time on FOS has been so lovely and I have learnt so much, it has been wonderful to be a part of this wonderful committee who have become good friends, I wish you all well on your future endeavours and fund raising and I will be around to help at events and will ensure a smooth handover to your next Chair. Thank you All, it has been a pleasure.