



April 2017

Report for Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 18th April 2017

You will be aware that in Surlingham we have an active Parents and Friends Association in place, called the Friends of Surlingham School (usually just referred to as FOSS). All parents and carers of children at Surlingham School are automatically members of FOSS and are welcome to participate in our activities at any level that interests them.

FOSS has two main channels to support the school, these are:

- 1. Promoting the school in the wider community and acting as a channel to encourage good links between school and community, and**
- 2. Carrying out fundraising activities to raise money to help fund resources and activities for the children at school.**

Over the last year the FOSS committee have worked hard to promote both of these activities. The current political climate of tightening school budgets means that fundraising by the Friends is even more important to maintain the school environment that we all want for our children. In 2015/16 FOSS raised £2,300 and we hope to reach a similar target this year.

Recent fundraising activities we have carried out have included:

Quiz Night, Christmas Cards, Bag2School recycling, Christmas Raffle, Summer Fairs, Ladies Christmas Meal, Cake Sales, Pop-Up Cafes and more!

We have recently provided money to school to buy forest school equipment, books, IT equipment, resources for KS1 (infant) classroom and materials to improve the outside area.

We have also supported the following activities by providing top up funding to ease the pressure on parent and school finances, forest school sessions, prizes for World Book Day competitions and transport for school trips.

In addition FOSS money has paid for the following 'fun' things which are enjoyed by children year after year at Surlingham School including school discos, leavers 'do', leavers gifts, Christmas crackers and Christmas gifts.

Sometimes FOSS can help just by providing an extra few pairs of hands to school - for example in making teas and coffees for Christmas performance days, Easter, Sports Day, Summer Celebrations etc. Recently a small army of people including Parents and other people from the Local Community came together at a weekend to transform the School outdoor areas - building new sandpits, water play areas, planting flowers and painting fences. This was hugely appreciated by the School and showed the strength of support that exists in Surlingham for the School.

Forthcoming Events:

May Fair and Fun Day - Saturday 13th May 3-6pm.

This is our big annual fundraiser, please do support in any way you feel you can. We will be doing a leaflet drop round houses to advertise the fair and let people know what they can donate to help support stalls (children's toys, books, plants cakes, tombola prizes etc) - We can ALWAYS use an extra pair of hand on stalls at the event so please do get in touch if this is something you could help with. But most of all we would love it if as many people as possible come along on the day. It's a great chance to see the School community at work and to connect with the fantastic children who are at the heart of it.

Surlingham is a great little school, we are all really proud of it and our children are really happy in school learning lots and enjoying themselves along the way. It is a pleasure to be able to contribute through FOSS and be part of the school family.

The FOSS Committee

FOSS email MessageFoss@gmail.com