

Chairpersons Report 2023 - 2024

Fundraising and Donations

This year, with the support of our wonderful families, friends and local businesses we have managed to raise funds in a variety of fun and creative ways.

If you take a look at our income and expense posters you will see where this money was raised and also how these funds were spent. You will see the funds were spent in a variety of ways, all directly benefiting the children of St Mary's and our school.

Just one of the many highlights of the year was holding our D Day celebrations to commemorate the 80th anniversary. We had a super time organising and hosting, I would like to extend our grateful thanks to Mrs Walker for permitting us to hold this event at school. There were lots of happy little faces joining in with the games and lots of happy grown-up faces making the most of the tea and cakes! The weather was kind to us, and with the help of our super team of parent helpers, school and your incredible support we raised an impressive amount.

There are so many things I'm proud of this year but I'll focus on the main two – firstly, the launch of our website, this contains so much information about FOSMS, what we do, who supports us and what we've achieved. We also publish our upcoming events via this platform for parents to pay online for events. From the feedback we've received from parents they've been really grateful for this option. Secondly, the implementation of the lending library. This is accessible to the children at any time for them to select a book to take home and read or share with their families. They can bring it back and exchange it once finished. It gives every child the opportunity to foster a love of reading for pleasure. Thank you for your support donating books to make this dream a reality.

If you take a look at the figure we managed to raise over the course of the year, it's a fair increase on previous years and that's mostly due to the grants and large donations we've been given by local businesses – our ethos of "if you don't ask, you don't get" was in full force this year and it paid off. The figure is also increased in no small part due to you, our family and friends, you've supported every event and initiative we've cooked up and we can't thank you enough for your support. We try to make our events as fun and as inclusive as we can, and your support has been an absolutely wonderful.

Charity Commission

This year we met the threshold of income to apply to become a registered charity. This has been a major achievement for us and while it's brought some additional paperwork challenges and boundaries, it's also given us the chance to apply for grants and funds from larger sources.

Thanks

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our committee members for their time, hard work and wholehearted support of FOSMS throughout the past year. It is very much appreciated and a necessity

for us to be able to support our school in providing lots of little fun extras for our children and to also be able to subsidise trips and school visits.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Rhian, Sandra, Stacey and Hannah who have been a huge support in their FOSMS roles and in their role as trustees of our charity. They have met each challenge we've faced this year with a determination to adapt and overcome.

I need to give special thanks to my right-hand lady Rhian, her unwavering support of even the most hair brained of ideas is unmatched - we do joke about who's going to keep presenting the ideas to Mrs Walker. She's baked up a storm, been a technical wizard getting our website to completion and is just an all-around gem. We couldn't have achieved any of this without you – thank you.

I can't sign off for the year without thanking Mrs Walker. She's supported and encouraged FOSMS in all our endeavours this year. It's been a year of change and new ideas, and Mrs Walker has met them all with a smile and a helping hand when needed. Her support means the world to us and everything we do is to give back to our school, thank you for supporting us, it's enabled us to really reach for the stars this past year.

Leanne Matthews
Chairperson