

# Friends of Somers Park School

Somers Park School, Somers Park Avenue, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 1SE  
Telephone: 01684 572949 Email: friendsofsomerspark@gmail.com

<i>President:</i>	<i>Chair:</i>	<i>Vice-Chair:</i>	<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Secretary:</i>
<i>Chris Hansen</i>	<i>Vikki Atkinson</i>	<i>Alastair Cameron</i>	<i>Rebecca Byrne</i>	<i>Karen Smyth</i>



## Chair's Annual Report 2017/18

Friends of Somers Park (FOSP) has had an extremely busy year raising similar amount of funds to support the school as last year. Without the considerable efforts of a small dedicated committee team, school staff and parent volunteers we would not be able to deliver a full programme of events that the children and adults enjoy alike and raise much needed money. A very big thank you goes to all those have donated to the cause – your money really does make a difference to enhancing the learning environment for all of our children.

The year started off with a big turnover in elected committee members, with the challenge of continuing the excellent work carried out by Claire Evans (previous Chair) and her team. Claire has been at FOSP's helm for a few years and shown tremendous determination and commitment to the school and FOSP and is well deserving of a rest! However, Claire has remained a key member of the committee, organizing various events. To Claire – a massive thank you for all that you have done for FOSP from me and all the members.

This year has seen an extremely busy programme with a few different events as we look for new ideas to raise money, entertain the children but still retain the ever popular cake sales! The programme got off to a slightly slower start as the new team worked out what we were meant to be doing and how we were going to do it! However, we soon got up to speed with 22 events planned.

Sept 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17
-	Uniform Sale	Cake Sale	Xmas Raffle
	Sponsored Reading Challenge	Christmas Cards	Seasonal Visit
Easyfundraising ongoing throughout year		Disco	
Jan 18	Feb 18	March 18	Apr 18
Tea Towels	Cake Sale	Cinema Night KS2	Cinema Night KS1
Quiz & Chips		Uniform Sale	
		Easter Raffle	
May 18	June 18	July 18	
Quiz & Curry (cancelled)	Uniform Sale	Summer Fayre	
Cake Sale	Disco	Leavers Gift	
		Ice lolly sales x 2	

The highlights of the year were the sponsored reading challenge which included such fun activities as reading with your hat and gloves on, read to a pet, in the bath and something that came through the post. The sponsored read was very successful and

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built on the school's theme to further encourage and improve reading: we received positive feedback from the kids and parents alike. As the quiz and curry always proves popular we decided to try a quiz and fish and chips night with the internationally renowned quiz master Alastair Cameron in the chair. It proved a highly successful night with not too many tough questions. Our intention is to run 2 quiz nights a year if the demand is high! We also introduced cinema nights for KS2 and KS1. While the attention levels varied through the films between the Key Stages, the popcorn went down a treat with both nights being sold out. Thank you to the School Council for helping to advertise it in school. The school disco was a sell out and thoroughly entertaining with a mass flossing session including some of the teachers – much to the children's amusement.

The ever popular Summer Fayre took considerable planning and effort from the committee over 3-4 months and from the army of volunteers on the day. We received many raffle prizes both from days out locations and local shops and restaurants. In particular, thank you to Clara Penn for pounding the streets drumming up the local prizes. Our BBQ pro from last year's Summer Fayre was out of country so Malvern Catering Services kindly assisted with burgers and hotdogs, although the smell of the BBQ was missed along with Mr Whippy ice creams! With the super-hot summer the committee decided to make the most of it and sell ice creams and ice lollies in July. This initiative proved extremely popular with the children chilling out on their way home from school. As long as we can get freezer storage it seems a good idea to carry this on in summers.

The school had approached us with the idea to renovate the library areas to make them much more welcoming and create an enchanting atmosphere to encourage reading. The challenge to raise enough money to fund this was accepted and so this year's fundraising has been focused on this. So far we have given approximately £4,000 towards this with more funds allocated but more to be raised. The tower centerpiece of the renovation was built over the summer holidays – thank you James Marshall and friends – quite a tall order! In addition to the library renovation, FOSP has purchased atlases for the Year 6 leavers and teachers have been busy spending their £100 per class on additional resources. We have purchased more equipment for playgrounds which the children love to use and keep them entertained at lunchtime.

This year's programme has already seen the 80s/90s adult disco at a local pub and we are working on a 'sponsored move'..... More to follow very soon! To continue the new ideas theme we are also discussing whether to book a circus (no animals) for a different entertainment and to establish a school lottery.

We will be carrying out a survey to get your views on what you and your children would like us to do. Of course, there is no guarantee that we will or can do it and more volunteers are always appreciated☺.

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A big thank you to everyone who has baked or bought cakes, donated or bought uniform, attended quiz nights, helped at the film nights or discos, sold or bought raffle tickets. To parents/guardians and staff members who have given up their time to help out in many, many ways – a massive thank you. Without your help we cannot bring you the programme of events that people want.

Ideally we would like 2 parent representatives per school year to be active members of the committee. The committee meetings are on the first Thursday of each month and last for 1 hour – please give your time and come join the committee. We are always looking for new ideas or events to hold, so even if you have no experience of a Parent Teacher Association, it does not matter: enthusiasm is required. As a parent of a child at Somers Park School you are already a member of FOSP. You can contribute to FOSP by using Easyfundraising to buy goods and services. FOSP gets a donation from companies without costing you any more.

This year we also welcome parents of Malvern Vale and it is our intention to open up all events to those parents/children as well to be part of the wider Somers Park family until Malvern Vale is well established.

A final plea.....come along and get involved to help make the school an extremely positive environment to encourage our children to learn, explore and aid personal development.