



FoSM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

Welcome:

Friends of St Mark's, or FoSM, is the parent teacher association for St Mark's and does its best to raise money so our children have an enriched school life. Most of the playground features have been funded by FoSM and continue to be enjoyed by all the children who come through the school; as well as the sensory garden, which is available to all children who need a bit of quiet time and is also a great space for outdoor lessons.

Funds raised at events are usually turned around quickly so the children benefit from them straight away.

Obviously with the way things have been, we have had to do things a bit differently and we appreciate that finances are very different this year and we are very mindful of the circumstances and no one is obliged to participate in and/or donate to any of the events. We are hoping, with things slowly returning to normal, that we will get some more fun events in later in the year.

Please see this term's events and some dates for your diaries below.

Dates for your diary:

Weds 3rd March	FoSM Meeting (on MS Teams)	Please join us if you can for a bit of a natter about fundraising ideas, potential grants we can tap into and anything else that takes your fancy! Get in touch with us for the meeting link ☺
Thurs 4th March	World Book Day	FoSM will be running a number of competitions this week, more information below. Look out for them via Facebook, school newsletters and your class reps. Entries to be brought into school on 8th March
Tues 9th March	Last date for Mother's Day Sale orders	This will be slightly different this year (see below for more details)
Easter Holidays	Easter Trail	Following the success of the Valentine's Trail, we will be running an Easter Trail.

Events:

World Book Day: FoSM will be running a whole load of competitions for the children to get involved in. One will be via our Facebook page and children are asked to transform a simple potato into a book character, there will be a prize for our favourite. An emoji book quiz will be sent out to everyone for a bit of fun and the winner (chosen at random from the correct entries) will win a bundle of books (these will be second hand but in very good condition). We would also really love some book reviews and posters to be displayed in the recently refurbished library. Please send entries for reviews and posters into school on **Monday 8th March**. They will be judged and a winner will be chosen from each class. Look out for the competition flyers ☺

Mother's Day Sale: This will be done slightly differently this year due to Covid restrictions. Children will be able to order gift(s) for a loved one(s) online via our **Sum Up Shop** (<http://fosm.sumup.link/>). Gifts will then be chosen (think lucky dip) by the committee and then delivered to your child wrapped with a label for them to write their own greeting. The gifts will be £2 and you will be able to order more than one gift for significant person(s). Orders are open from **now until Tuesday 9th March** and gifts will be delivered to your child in class on Friday 12th March. Please put your child's name and class (just one child if you have more than one in school) on your order.

Easter Trail: There will be a trail in the area of the school, similar to the Valentine's trail. Entries will need to be emailed to ptafoasm@gmail.com. A winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries. Hopefully the weather will be better ☺
We are asking for donations if you enjoy it (suggest £1 per family) but please don't feel obliged to donate. Details of how to do this will be on the map.

How to get in touch:

Speak to your class rep.

Email us: ptafoasm@gmail.com

Look out for us on Twitter (@FosmStm)

and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FOSMpta/>)

We have a very active Facebook page and this is probably the best place to find all the most up-to-date information. Just search for The Friends of St Mark's and you should find us.

Fundraising so far this year:

Martin Jones took some amazing photographs in his **pop up studio** and raised **£127.50** for FoSM.

We raised an incredible **£1,234** from the **Christmas Draw**.

We managed a **Christmas Gift Sale** and raised over **£550**, this is something that we are going to keep going forward as it was very popular.

The sales that happened over the Christmas period in collaboration with WPSA (silent auction, sweets, books and cards) brought in an extra **£273**. Thank you to everyone who helped to make all the items that were sold and those who bought them.

Tamar's wonderful girls, Alyssa and Emilie, raised a staggering **£216**, which was shared with WPSA, by doing a sponsored walk after learning how much fundraising we have had to cancel this year (and last). Thank you so much girls for this very kind gesture.

The **pop up mask tree** raised an amazing **£282.70** from donations. Thanks go to all the mask makers and Sian for organising it all for us.

The **Valentine's Trail** raised over **£70**, which was shared with WPSA. Well done Dylan on winning the prize 😊

The **textiles box** in the street has brought in over **£50** so far this year, please keep putting your outgrown clothes, etc. in there, it is still open for donations (please clean and bag items).

Shopping using **Amazon Smile** has raised approximately **£10**, please consider signing up to this, it costs nothing and will make a difference to our fundraising.

Just over £2,700 has been raised by FoSM so far this year, a great achievement. This can't be done without your support, so

Your Committee:

As some of last year's Y6 parents have moved on we are keen to have more parents joining with fresh ideas to continue supporting our wonderful school.

If you would like to join the committee this year please let us know through your class rep, via email (see overleaf) or facebook. We understand that not everyone can make meetings when you have little ones to consider, but please let us know if you would like to be a pair of hands at events or if you have any ideas.

We are planning on frequent meetings at the moment to plan for things as we are able during these uncertain times so please feel free to drop in on these with no commitment whatsoever 😊

Your Committee are:

Chair – **Jackie Dixon**; Vice Chair – **Aimée Helliker**; Treasurer – **Karen Paczosi**; Vice Treasurer – **Olivia Alexander-Newell**; Secretary – **Kate Griffiths**; Teacher Representative – **Mr Flemington (Headteacher)**

Committee Members:

Caz Pitt, Emily Wilding-Witts, Emily Mackenzie, Luci Ashley, Lou Bullis, Alice Jackman, Claire Talbot, Leanne Leatham, Rachael Fisher, Beth Marshall

Please do get in touch (see below) if you wish to volunteer or have a query, concern or suggestion 😊

What we spent the money on so far this year:

We have not had a lot of opportunities so far this year to spend funds but we have bought a few things for the school.

Approximately **£180** was spent on **books** for all of the children to enjoy.

Approximately **£600** was spent on **wall maps** and **atlases** for every classroom.

FoSM funded the **school pantomime** which every child enjoyed along with **popcorn and a drink**. All children were also given a **Christmas present** for the children's Christmas dinner this year, this came to approximately **£340**.

All in all, approximately £1,000 has been spent by FoSM on the children so far this year 😊

Classroom Representatives:

FoSM Committee Members have kindly agreed to be classroom representatives so you can bring your ideas and offers of help to them or just grab them for a chat.

As you can see, we need some reps for some of the classes; please let us know if you can help or would like to find out more. Also, we would be happy to have more than one rep per class to spread the load.

ASH – Emily Mackenzie (Ruby)

BEECH – Vicky Fielding (Theo)

CHESTNUT – Rachael Fisher (Alfie)

ELM – Jackie Dixon (Rebecca & Nicola)

FIR – Kelly Dumbrell (William)

HOLLY – Claire Talbot (Grace)

LIME – Caz Pitt (Freya)

MAPLE – Leanne Leatham (Eva)

OAK – Beth Marshall (George)

PINE – VACANT

SPRUCE – Alice Jackson (Henry)

WILLOW – VACANT

How you can help:

Committee Meetings – Come along and help us plan this year's events and bring your ideas, we will be running MS Teams meetings for everyone to join in.

Events – Keep an eye on the newsletters for ways in which you can help, such as planning, setting up or during an event itself. The more volunteers we have, the less that any one individual has to do 😊

Match Funding – Some companies will match fund, please see the separate letter.

Please keep your eyes open for other opportunities, and please let us know if you find any.