

**Annual Chairperson Report**  
**Friends of Saxlingham School AGM**  
**October 2023**

FOSS has had another very successful year in 2022-23. We have said goodbye to old members and welcomed new members and hopefully we can keep moving from strength to strength.

The fundraising year started with Christmas Tea Towels, where children and staff were asked to draw self-portraits that were printed on tea towels and sold for gifts or mementos to family and friends. This was a well-received scheme by families at the school. There was also an opportunity to buy cards and baubles, which all helped with the fundraising efforts. Following this, FOSS organised the Christmas Party for the children of the school, which was hosted at Saxlingham Village Hall with entertainment from Charlie Cheesecake, who was fantastic. The children and parents enjoyed it immensely and it was a great success. Santa once again visited the school in December 2022 and gifted chocolates to each of the children, as is a long-standing FOSS tradition.

In the last financial year (21-22) FOSS had a core focus for fundraising, which was the new clamber stack for the children in Squirrels class, who had been without play equipment for 4 years. Funding was secured in the last financial year for this through the fundraising and hard work of the FOSS committee, the help of Matt Walker, Headteacher, in securing Sports Premium funding and the generosity of those supporting FOSS events. So, in January 2022 the clamber stack was finally installed, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed playing on the clamber stack in their 'bird' groups, which has enhanced their learning and widened their opportunities for play. Once again, well done to everyone involved with all the steps of the process!

Across the year, several cake sales have taken place, which were well received by the children and their families. Due to a lessening of COVID restrictions, we were able to make use of the school hall or base our stall outside the reception foyer, which has been welcomed, especially when it has rained! Thank-you once again to all of those who have baked, donated cakes and have made contributions. Thankyou also to the school for allowing us to use the school hall.

In April, FOSS decided to host a 'Self-Service Easter Egg Hunt', which was available to participate in throughout the two weeks of the Easter Holidays. The decision was made to try something different this year as many people had not been able to attend the one-day event the previous year due to holidaying over the school break. There were not perhaps as many people as expected who participated, but, those who did were very complimentary and said their children and families had really enjoyed it. Thank-you to Tesco for donating the Easter Eggs, which were the prizes for the Egg Hunt and also to all of those who found the time to participate. As a committee, we believe this event can continue to grow and we have received some really helpful feedback from those who supported the event, which we can implement moving forwards.

In May, during the Coronation celebrations for King Charles III, FOSS hosted a 'Raisin' Money' event where children were asked to fill raisin boxes with donations and to decorate them with a 'Coronation' theme. This was well received and there were some fantastic designs! Thank-you to Tesco for donating the raisins and the class prizes for this event.

Sports Day had been scheduled for June this year and FOSS hoped to host a BBQ, refreshment and cake stall. FOSS also planned to once again run a 'jam jar' stall, something that had been very

successful in the past. However, unfortunately the rain and wet weather meant 2 cancellations of Sports Day, with it finally happening on a morning in July. The BBQ had to be cancelled due to limited time available. However, the cake sale ran as planned at the end of June and the jam jar sale was ran by some of the children at the end of year water fight, so we were still able to raise some reasonable funds even though the weather had affected our plans! Thank-you for all of those who were involved in the planning of this event, particularly to Kelly and Mike Larkin who had organised the BBQ and Amy Pilkington who had arranged the 'jam jar' stall with Kelly. Thank-you also to the children who ran the 'jam jar' stall on the last day of term and all those who supported it.

In terms of fundraising contributions across the year, FOSS have helped to subsidise transport or trip costs such as transport for Squirrels class to the Dinosaur Park and for the older children to West Stowe in Summer 2022. FOSS also funded the Hindu dancing workshop that all children attended as well as the initial annual subscription starting from this September for 'Sing Up' which will allow all children in the school to participate in singing group lessons and potentially a school choir. School leavers were also allocated £25pp to assist with leavers mementoes and events.

To finish, I want to thank several people whom without their support these achievements may not have happened:

- Adelaide for designing and printing the posters for some of the events FOSS has held.
- Leanne and Zoe for their hard work as Treasurer and Secretary.
- Claire Smith for opening and closing the school for us for meetings and events.
- Lynn and Graham for all of the work they do for the children in the school garden. FOSS continues to be happy to fund anything that enables this to continue.
- Kelly and Mike Larkin for buying and donating compost for the school garden.
- Those who have assisted with structural changes in the school garden, especially in preparing the ground for the clamber stack, such as Lee Mulley and family and Rowena Crosten-Clegg and family.

Thanks also goes to the committee members and family members who have helped with and supported FOSS events, as well as those who have donated raffle prizes and funds across the year.

We look forward to another successful year in 2023-24.

Thank-you for your continued support.

Katie Lightfoot

**FOSS Chairperson**