

September 2020 – July 2021

Firstly, I'd like to say welcome to you all, and thank you for taking the time to join us for our FOSS AGM. This year has continued to be a challenge, because, although lockdown and restrictions have been eased, in terms of fundraising we were still very restricted and it meant that we missed our bigger fundraising events for a second year running. However, we tried our hardest, and we managed to hold a fundraising event nearly every month.

I want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all of the FOSS committee members, as I mentioned above, it has been hard and we've needed to work together to achieve what we have, and if anything, we appreciate the amounts we raised more, as we are aware and understand the difficulties and hardships that the pandemic has caused many people.

Luckily enough we were in a healthy position, with funds in the bank going into the year and we were able to agree to continue to fund the £4000 towards the rolling I.T. programme at school for 2020/2021. This was on the agreement that we would have to review this decision year on year depending on funds available.

I'm not going to discuss the amounts we raised as Rachel, our current Treasurer will give us the highlights in her report shortly.

This last year we had to adapt the way we ran some events taking into account the circumstances, for example, the Christmas hamper and Raffle. Normally, we would just ask for donations from parents for the hampers via a non-uniform day, make up the hampers and sell the hamper tickets outside of the Church on the days of the Christmas plays but covid put a stop to bringing items into school and the school plays. We bought the items for the hampers, sanitised them for the necessary quarantine time and moved to online payments via parentmail and this enabled us to continue with this event. We were able to sell tickets in the coffee shop too and accepted payments via sealed envelopes into the school office. We were incredibly lucky to receive some very kind donations from local businesses so we were able to carry out a raffle at the same time.

By taking the necessary precautions, and amending the original plans, we were able to continue to hold the bag 2 school event throughout the year. It was so well supported, by school families and the wider community, and resulted in our big collections and funds raised.

I promise I won't discuss each event we have held in detail, as we will be here all evening, but considering we missed running refreshments at Stanfords Got Talent, having a refreshments stall at the Village Festival, The School Summer Fete in its entirety and the refreshments sales from both Sports Day and The Year 6 Leavers plays, I think we still did fantastically.

I personally think that payment via parentmail seems to work very well and catches some parents who wouldn't ordinarily carry money, although it does create some more work for Ms Payne (Sorry!). Moving forward, I would hope that we would be able to arrange for some payments to be via BACS, straight into the FOSS bank account (with a prior agreement from the treasurer for any reference guides).

Unfortunately, the one thing we haven't managed to do was swap our bank account from HSBC to BARCLAYS. Lockdown saw a lot of counter services being closed and with Barclays in Wantage remaining open we thought it would logistically make getting floats for events easier, and any one of the signatories would be able to get it. However, this is hampered by Barclays putting on hold the number of new charity accounts they are currently accepting, probably because, like us, many other charities are needing to swap due to counter service location. We will endeavour to make this a priority as we will need to swap signatories on the account following tonight's meeting and we will therefore make the change at the same time.

I couldn't be prouder of our school and the phenomenal support we receive from the families and community, especially given the exceptional circumstances we are still living in. But we do need the continued support to be able to facilitate the events in the future, so we need extra people to spread the load of the committee. The more people = the less work we each have to do. FOSS are a friendly committee and will welcome any new members and any new fundraising ideas with open arms.

I'd like to acknowledge all the hard work that Ali and Pippa have put in during their time as FOSS secretaries and they are stepping down tonight after 3 years. Your help and support has been incredible and very much appreciated, so I would like to say a big, big, thank you, to you both. You will be missed.

I'd like to thank the parent class representatives for all of their help in spreading the word about all of our events via their class face book pages.

Jo from the coffee shop has also been so supportive, helping with any scheme or event that we take to her. So I'd publicly like to acknowledge our thanks to her.

I am stepping down as Chair of FOSS, after 2 years, for a few reasons, but I will be staying on as a parent helper and will help out at events until my son leaves Stanford School in July 2023.

Of course, FOSS wouldn't be able to run without committee members so thank you to those committee members who are staying on, and to any new members who are signing up tonight. Every single aspect of help is greatly received and appreciated, however big or small.

Finally, moving forward, depending on how long this pandemic lasts, it may mean that FOSS cannot support the school in the same way as it has done in the past, but we will work closely with School to ensure that any funds raised are spent in the best interest of our children and the school.

That's it from me, so I'd like to hand you over to Rachel for the Treasurer report.....