

# Friends of Stanley School (FOSS) - Annual General Meeting

14 October 2020

Attendees:

Mrs Elizabeth Stanley-Wainwright, Mrs E. Richardson, Gill Lynam, Emma Softley, Liz Jackson, Ruth Stals, Samantha Osvath, Mandy Parr, Lucy Ogden, Alison Izzard, Katey Bradley, Alan MacDonald, Kathryn Moore.

1. **Apologies**: Claire Rowan, Rowena Dennis, Sue Hunter, Anna Kelleway

2. **Minutes of the last AGM**

Previous years minutes discussed. No questions raised and we all agreed they could be signed off as a true record of events.

3. **Chair's Report by Gill Lynam**

Firstly, I'd like to say hello to everyone, a warm welcome to all the committee members attending this virtual meeting, it's nice to see some new faces. It's not ideal to conduct an AGM virtually, however, life as we know it is very different now & the need to keep everyone safe is paramount.

I was asked to take on the Chairperson role in February 2020, as an interim measure. Emma Softley had been in the role for a couple of years, I think it's fair to say Emma was a very successful Chairperson who was driving FOSS in the right direction. However, Emma had to step away from the Chair role in February & I agreed to take up the reins for 7 months, up to the October 2020 AGM.

Prior to this point, FOSS had had a very successful year... two Charity Nights, an Easter Bonnet Parade / cake sale, two Movie Nights, a Summer Fair, two School Discos, a Fashion Show, a Winter Fair, which have raised over £7,000.

We were just in the planning stages of the Bake-off and Summer Fair when COVID-19 happened, which has changed life immeasurably and still continues to affect our school to the present day.

Since February, we've undertaken a few things: we have arranged for all Mums to receive some primulas for Mother's Day (just prior to lockdown) and we organised for the new parents

in September to receive a starter pack, plus we paid for a leaver's event for the Year 6 children who had missed the final four months of their time with their Stanley School family.

In spite of COVID-19, I believe the FOSS Team have had a phenomenal year, raising lots of funds for the school, to buy those added extras the school needs to provide the very best learning experience for our children.

Ok, time for thanks:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Emma. She has worked incredibly hard for FOSS, she has led the team whilst maintaining high standards & she has been at the heart of every single event. Thank you from the whole team, you have been an amazing Chairperson.

A massive thank you to Kathryn who has conducted the Secretary role for the year, she has done an absolutely sterling job, faced with my constant Whatsapp messages.

Thanks to Sue Hunter for completing the 2019/2020 accounts.

To Lucy, who spends hours sorting the school uniform orders, a thankless task which she conducts with ease.

To all the FOSS committee members, parents, ex-parents, grandparents, everyone who has supported events, by helping out or putting their hands in their pockets (once again) & donate prizes. The team do a lot of background work that people don't see, the registered charity work undertaken by Claire Rowan, from designing newsletters, the sponsored walks & kind donations, providing fundraising ideas, everything helps the cause & it's thanks to their dedication.

To all our amazing teachers, teaching assistants and all the other staff members who make our school an amazing place, teaching the curriculum in the most fascinating engaging way & looking after our children every day.

I'd also like to thank our amazing Headteacher, Mrs Stanley-Wainwright, who continues to lead our school through uncertain times, the constant voice for the children, the ever listening ear that hears all our concerns. Her input & drive for the school is absolutely invaluable & this school certainly wouldn't be the place it is today without her.

Finally, the next year will be challenging but I'm sure the Team can adapt and still raise funds in the present climate. We welcome any fundraising ideas (obviously from a socially distanced perspective) and your input is always appreciated.

#### **4. School Report**

ESW opened by saying thanks to FOSS for living out the school values. ESW expressed her gratitude for all the things that FOSS has helped purchase such as: fridge-freezer, books, new phone system, My Concern IT package. All these extras help the staff which in turn helps the children.

It will be a challenging year ahead. The children have all adapted well. ESW has requested that FOSS monies purchase the following extras:

- Reading books and materials for all year groups with a multicultural / Black lives focus.
- Robin class: train set, water play, multicultural jigsaws.
- Kingfisher class: TV screen to enable partition of classroom in to two sections.
- Items towards creating a magical Christmas experience for the children within the school environment.

#### **5. Treasurer Report**

As is the case most years there is a deficit with the uniform ordering. This can be the result of bulk bookbag purchasing, keeping stocks of school bags and PE bags. The uniform sales are not a profit-making arm of the PTA. It is there to offer a cost-effective alternative to Morley's etc.

All school fundraising events were profitable with the exception of the tea towels. Surplus tea towel stock was used as gifts within our community.

There are three cheques outstanding amounting to £292. All other cheques have cleared.

Gill Lynam and Mandy Parr are in the process of verifying the accounts. They will provide a verified set of accounts to the governing body in the next 4 weeks.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, there is £5,103.46 in the current account. The revenue generated mainly consists of Easyfundraising, Amazon Smile donation etc. Expenditure has been on items such as Twinkle, My Concern, books (£1700), raffle licence, Mother's day flowers etc.

We continue to have an additional surplus bank account with a zero balance. This requires closing. No online banking set up yet.

Lucy Ogden raised the matter of the Year 6 Leaver's hoodies and if they were entered into the accounts. **Action:** Gill Lynam volunteered to check this.

**6. Gill Lynam and Sue Hunter to officially stand down as chair and treasurer respectively**

Gill and Sue to step down from their respective roles.

**7. Election of committee members**

Liz Jackson volunteered to become FOSS Chairperson. Liz was nominated first by Kathryn Moore and seconded by Emma Softley.

Ruth Stals volunteered to be Treasurer. Ruth was nominated first by Mandy Parr and seconded by Katey Bradley.

Kathryn Moore was happy to stand again for Secretary. Kathryn was nominated first by ESW and seconded by Liz Jackson.

Sam Osvath, Mandy Parr, Alan MacDonald do not wish to be FOSS committee members. The following people were happy to remain/become committee members: Liz Jackson, Ruth Stals, Katey Bradley, Alison Izzard, Emma Softley, Lucy Ogden, Claire Rowan, Rowena Dennis, Kathryn Moore.

**Action:** Kathryn to check if other committee members wish to continue on the committee.

**8. Covid 19 Strategy / New ways of fundraising**

It was discussed that due to social distancing etc it is no longer feasible to fundraise using our previous manner. Only essential adults to be on school grounds. A new approach is needed. We will focus on obtaining grants for the school, virtual raffles, sponsored events by the school children, Amazon wishlist, Elfridges, promote Amazon Smile / Easyfundraising / My Nametags. Alan suggested virtual adult events, Paypal money pools and suggested getting local business to donate items needed by school e.g. TV screen.

**Action:** Liz to check if money for My Nametags still goes to preschool.

**9. Any other business**

Emma Softley expressed her thanks for her leaving present. Emma thanked Gill for stepping in as Chair. Emma also thanked Liz, Ruth and Kathryn for keeping FOSS going. She thanked the teachers, TA's and Kay and Eric. Motto: Together we can!

Kathryn expressed her thanks to Gill for all her support. It was a pleasure working with Gill. Kathryn highlighted that due to working as an NHS nurse during the pandemic that she may need extra support with the role of secretary.

**10. Close of business**

Next meeting will be next week with ESW, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.