



Annual Report **Friends of St Mary Abbots School**

Year ending Aug 31st 2020

Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited)



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Friends of St Mary Abbots School, 2 Kensington Church Court, London W8 4SP

Charity Registration No. 10309555

FOSMAS Chair

Firstly, I would like to apologize for the delay in getting this report out and hosting the AGM for the academic year 2019-2020. Given the pandemic, we paused to wait (in vain) to be able to meet in person but unfortunately cannot wait any longer.

The last year and three months have not been easy, to say the least. We are in a rapidly changing world, and things have been exceedingly difficult for everyone at SMAS (parents, children, and staff alike, as well as for our wider families and community). It is in times like these that our community spirit hopefully prevails, and we can pull together to help each other and our school. From FOSMAS we would like to acknowledge that these have been incredibly testing times for all, and we would like to send everyone our absolute best wishes and a huge THANK YOU.

To support the children's education, the teachers had to make a swift transition to online-only education. SMAS was one of the only schools in the borough able to provide virtual education as consistent as possible with the curriculum. This was an incredible achievement and the result of hours of training and preparation. We applaud the leadership of Mr. Primrose, the support of the Governors and Mother Emma, and of course the wonderful execution by all the teachers and staff at SMAS.

At FOSMAS we tried to find ways to support our school and the children throughout this period. School activities were cancelled for a significant part of the school year given lockdown restrictions. FOSMAS unfortunately had to cancel the Summer term activities like the Sports Day, Summer Fair/Fete and KS2 Quiz Night. However, we continued to work with the school behind the scenes and, in response to the heightened school hygiene needs due to Covid-19 we funded new hand-washing troughs in the playgrounds. We have also contributed towards the Teachers' wish-list (c. 83% of money raised in the school year) and supported the school with any training and resources required during the virtual schooling period. Although this report specifically relates to the academic year 2019-2020, in the current academic year 2020-2021 FOSMAS has continued to support the SMA School Fund and has contributed to curriculum upgrades and enhancements (Read-Write Inc Phonics, Singapore Maths – Maths No Problem, Mathletics, Readings Eggs...to name some highlights) and also contributed to updating the school's IT suite (including new electronic whiteboards, new PCs and new tablets/laptops). More on that in our next annual report, although our recent newsletter provides updates on these items (as did the webinar Mr. Primrose hosted in November on the 'SMA School Vision').

We hope you find this report uplifting and interesting, and that you will join us in wishing all the staff at SMAS and all families good health and best wishes in this journey towards a "new" normal, as the country slowly reopens.

Nicholas Kyprios
FOSMAS Chair

"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

Charity Information

Background and Objectives

The Friends of St Mary Abbots School (FOSMAS) is a registered UK charity formally constituted in January 1994. It is governed by its Constitution, as amended, and adopted on 12 July 2011¹.

The main objective of this charity is to advance the education of pupils in St Mary Abbots School (SMAS) by:

1. Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school.
2. Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

The charity relies on a formally constituted Committee to pursue this objective. FOSMAS Committee administers the charity and meets at least quarterly with further meetings as required. All members of the Committee are trustees of the charity and have control of its property and funds.

FOSMAS' trustees bring a variety of skills to the board including financial, communications, administration, and events and charity management. All Trustees are encouraged to keep up to date with the role and responsibility of a trustee. Nominations for election to the Committee may be made by any charity member with the consent of the nominee. The formal election process takes place at the AGM where decisions are taken by simple majority.

Trustees

The Trustees presented their annual report and unaudited accounts for the year ending 31st August 2018 at the AGM held on 17th October 2019. FOSMAS elected its committee members as listed below:

FOSMAS Committee (elected in October 2019)

Nicholas Kyprios (C)
Wouter Van Aken (co T)
Andres Espinosa
Ioana Bozan

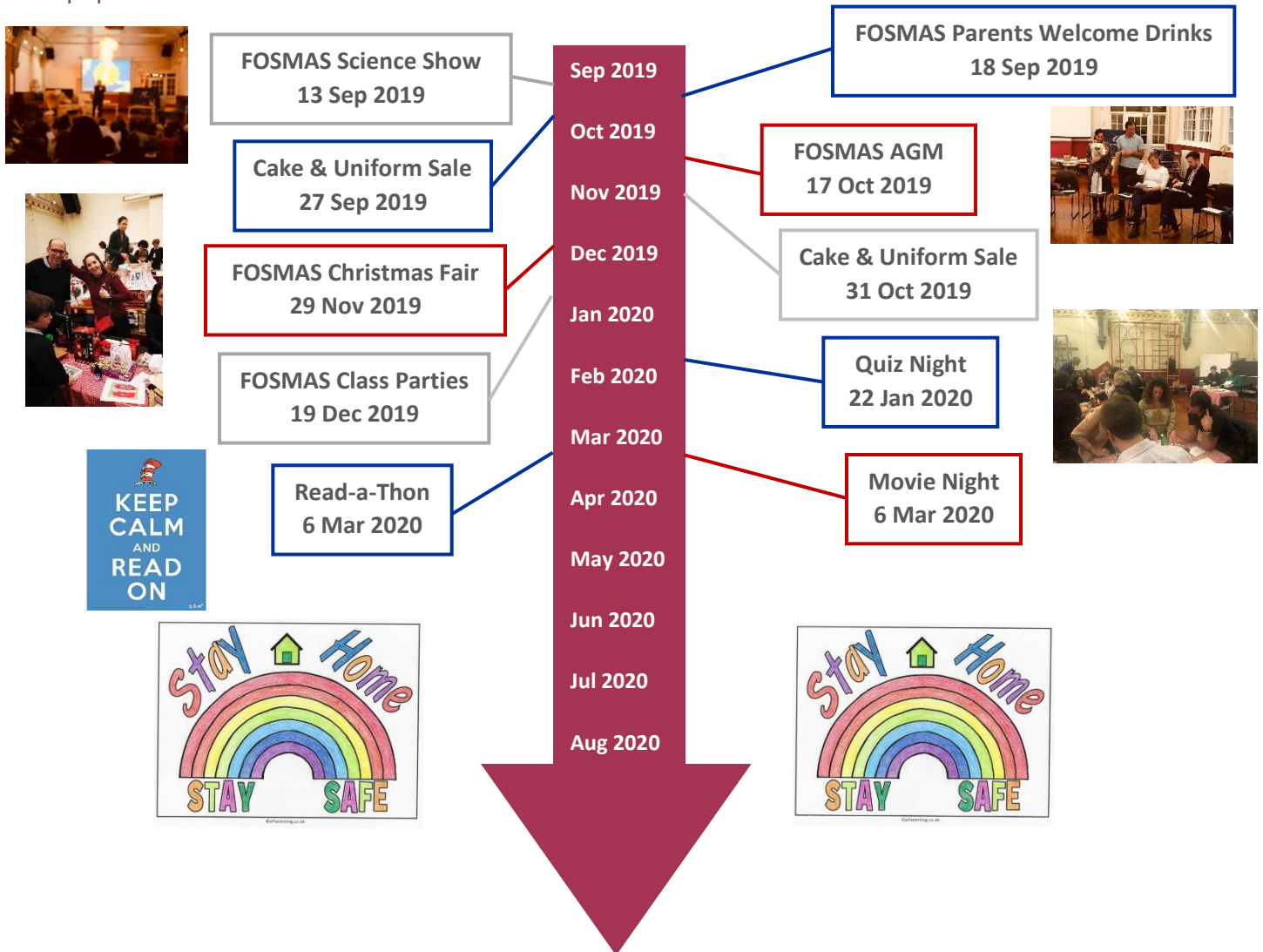
Marina Lussich (co C)
Sandra Vasquez (S)
Jody Hammersley
Joerg Oestreich (Co)

Tom Wegelius (T)
Thea Lenborg
Chloe Wainwright
Claude Ashmore (Co)

Note: C - Chair, T - Treasurer, S - Secretary, Co - Co-opted member

Activities

As the school’s dedicated charity and Parents Teachers Association (PTA), FOSMAS plays a crucial role in organising activities and events to foster relations between the school’s staff, parents, pupils and Governors. A key part of FOSMAS’ role is to raise funds for educational materials and equipment for our children to have the best education and learning environment where to thrive. To achieve this, FOSMAS organises several events and activities throughout the year. However, given Covid-19, we were not able to hold events for a significant part of the school year missing a few of our popular Summer events. :



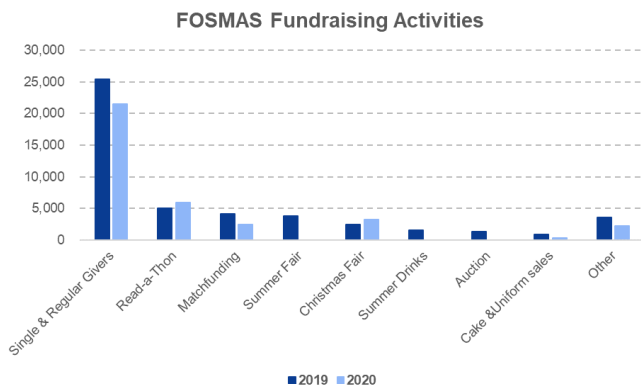
¹ The Constitution can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.fosmas.info/constitution.html>

Annual Review

FOSMAS had a busy start of the year and, aside from the events listed in the previous section, FOSMAS has contributed to the school through a number of additional initiatives. We have kept parents up-to-date via newsletters and emails where we publicise upcoming events, communicate our fundraising targets and progress, and report on FOSMAS initiatives. We have also continued to work closely with the **Class Reps** to pass on FOSMAS news to all parents, and “School Comms” email to parents act as additional reminders.

2019/20 was a challenging year for everyone at the school with a health emergency being declared nation wide due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks must go to **Mr Primrose**, for leading our school through this unprecedented time and supporting the children, parents, and staff.

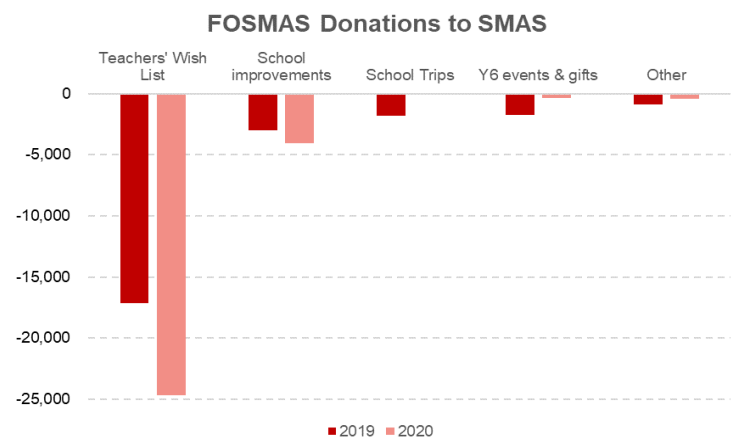
Overall, FOSMAS raised c. £35,785 (net of costs) which represents a decrease of 34% from the previous school year. This is explained by the cancellation of all our events and activities from mid-March until the end of the school year. All other fundraising efforts were also halted as we all tried to deal with the new set of rules, including home-schooling.



As in previous years, Single & Regular Givers represented the biggest source of income (60%). This highlights how crucial **your donations** are to FOSMAS and, ultimately, the school. Thank you so much to all the families who made this possible. We believe that by encouraging open communication among FOSMAS’ members, setting clear fundraising targets, and delivering tangible results, we can do so much better. Regular donations are particularly important as it

provides a more stable source of income which allows the school to plan future investments accordingly. Looking at the events, the Read-a-Thon was, once more, our best fundraiser, representing around 17% of our annual income (vs. 11% in the previous year).

This year’s Wish List represented 83% of the total money donated to the school and included curriculum changes and upgrades like Read, Write Inc phonics resources and training. School improvements included the hand-washing facilities installed in the playgrounds to help with heightened school hygiene needs due to Covid-19.



Autumn Term

The Autumn Term saw some new arrivals at the school - thanks to those of you who have joined in so enthusiastically with our efforts at FOSMAS. Our “**New parents drinks evening**”, welcomed Reception class parents - and other new parents to the school. It was a successful and well attended evening. This event’s main objective is to integrate new parents to our school community and help them meet and socialise. FOSMAS fully funds this event.

FOSMAS Annual General Meeting (AGM) was an interesting evening where FOSMAS members were able to meet the Committee members, hear a summary of FOSMAS’ activities and accounts, ask questions, and share ideas. Also, it was **Mr. Primrose’s** first AGM and he was happy to answer questions from parents. Thanks must go to **Laura Sylvester**, who stepped down as FOSMAS’ chair, for always supporting and being such a proactive FOSMAS member. It has been such a joy working with her.



In preparation for Christmas 2019, parents helped to decorate the school. Thanks to **Kevin Giles** for always giving the school such a wonderful Christmas tree to decorate.

The **Christmas Fair** was a big success (and a lot of hard work from all the classes). Thanks must go to the **Class Reps** for coordinating, and to all parents who turned up to run their stalls. An incredibly special call out to **Louisa’s godfather**, aka Father Christmas! This year the Christmas fair raised £3,236 (net of costs), an increase of c. 26% YoY. A special thank you to **Elie Hanna (XL Catlin/AXA Group)** and **Elena Lindmark (Credit Suisse)** who raised matchfunding of \$800 and £500, respectively.

As usual, the Reception and KS1 plays were filmed, but sadly this did not generate any revenue for FOSMAS this time. If one of our parents volunteers to film the plays, please let the Committee know! It used to be a real money maker for the school. At the end of the Autumn term, FOSMAS provide a Christmas treat for the children. All the years had a party and snacks in their classrooms. Teachers and support staff received a small gift to thank them for all their hard work.

Spring Term

Thank you to Becky Barrow and Tom Lyster who provided the questions and hosted our annual Quiz Night in January. Sadly, we had to say good-bye to them this year, we cannot thank them enough for all their help, dedication and constant support to FOSMAS and our school. As usual, the questions were fun and challenging., Year 6 triumphed and the Reception team came a creditable second place in what was a very competitive night. The evening raised over £1,117 (gross) which was matchfunded by Barclays (thank you **Ioana Bozan!**), up to an extra £1,000.

FOSMAS were very excited to host our film night for KS2 children on Friday, 6 March. Children watched Dumbo while wearing their pj’s and enjoying pizza and juice. Thank you to the parents who

chaperoned, and to **Mr Primrose, Gill, Nadia** and **Mrs Morrison** for being there taking care of the children.

During this term, FOSMAS worked closely with Miss Chakiris to hold our popular Read-a-Thon between 14 February and 6 March. Children were encouraged to read books, listen to audio books and stories - and be sponsored by family and friends. As an incentive, all the children participating were entered into a draw to prizes, including book vouchers and outing to the park for ice cream to the class that collects the most points. All of these was provided by FOSMAS.



Many families set up Just Giving pages for sponsorship, with family and friends chipping in from all corners of the world. As part of the **Read-a-Thon** we also had the traditional Book Day Parade on Friday, where the children dressed up as their favourite book characters. The event was photographed by a FOSMAS Committee member, prints were available for a donation with all proceeds going to FOSMAS. The event raised over £5,900 which made it the most successful event of the year (YoY increase of over 15%).

Other Initiatives

We were able to hold a couple of **Cake & Uniform sales** have been a hit with pupils during the year before the first lockdown in March 2020. Thank you to **Lorena De la Torre, Thea Lenborg- Walsh** and **Victoria Toland** who coordinated and helped run the events. Thanks to all the **Class Reps** who ensured cakes were baked and stalls manned, and to all the children and parents for buying!

Thanks and Farewells

The end of the Summer term saw a number of families and **Miss Keck** leave the school. They have been major supporters of FOSMAS and we thank them for their huge contribution to the school over the years. **Laura Sylvester** stepped down from the Committee as FOSMAS Chair in Oct 2019, as did **Guy Regis**. We would like to thank them for their hard work and support throughout the years.

We would like to thank all the **parents** and **school staff** who worked tirelessly this year in events and fundraising and donated generously to FOSMAS. A very special thank you goes to **Gergana Panderova**, a school mother who kindly assisted in the auditing of our annual accounts.

Thank you to **Mr Reeve**, who provided constant support for all the events at school and made sure that everything ran smoothly in the background. Finally, we would like to thank **Mr Primrose**, the **School Governors, Fr Jonathan, Mother Emma**, and the **PCC of St Mary Abbots Church** for all their help and support throughout the past year.

Appendix 1

	[+ / - selection in formulas]	Actual Total
Balance		
Carried forward start of year	Balance Sheet	96,993.56
Income - Donations		
INC: Donation	Income	21,511.49
Income - Activities / fundraising		
INC: Event - Christmas Fair	Income	3,233.17
INC: Event - Christmas DVD	Income	169.00
INC: Event - Christmas y6 carol singing	Income	320.00
INC: Event - Quiz Night	Income	1,117.80
INC: Event - Christmas Cards	Income	503.00
INC: Event - Read-a-thon	Income	5,948.16
INC: Event - Cake, uniform and book sales	Income	361.87
INC: Event - Film Night (Dumbo)	Income	685.66
INC: Event - Science Show	Income	247.27
INC: Event - Book Day Photos 2020	Income	600.52
INC: Event - Ms Doyle leaving present	Income	95.00
Income - other sources		
INC: Matchfunding	Income	2,460.62
INC: Bank - Interest and Fees	Income	119.02
Expenses - Donations		
EXP: to SMAS - Teachers Christmas Gifts	Expense	(98.00)
EXP: to SMAS - Christmas Parties	Expense	(229.62)
EXP: to SMAS - School Trips	Expense	(60.00)
EXP: to SMAS - New Parents Drinks	Expense	(11.00)
EXP: to SMAS - Y6 leaving party 2019	Expense	(70.00)
EXP: to SMAS - Y6 & Ms Keck leaving party	Expense	(300.00)
Expenses - Activities / Fundraising		
EXP: Event - Christmas Fair	Expense	(470.80)
EXP: Event - Christmas y6 carol singing	Expense	(15.00)
EXP: Event - Quiz Night	Expense	(367.78)
EXP: Event - Christmas Cards	Expense	(392.10)
EXP: to SMAS - Science Day	Expense	(26.85)
EXP: to SMAS - Teachers' Wish List	Expense	(28,742.34)
EXP: to SMAS - World Book Day Photos	Expense	(100.81)
EXP: Event - Ms Doyle leaving present	Expense	(915.00)
Expenses - Other		
EXP: SG&A	Expense	(129.32)
EXP: Bank - Interest and Fees	Expense	(216.00)
Balance		
Carried forward end of year (sum above)	Balance Sheet	102,221.52