



Autumn 2012 Newsletter

The long summer nights are fast receding and as Dorothy Parker wrote "Autumn makes me sing" It comes along and softens the light while sharpening the senses.

A new school year, a new Committee for the Friends of St Mary Abbots School – otherwise known as FOSMAS. We are following in some mighty footsteps. A huge thank you for the impressive work performed by the outgoing committee, Melinda, Claire, Tony and Sally.

Your new Committee is as follows:

Chair: Wendy Wyver (Y2)

Secretary: Michael Duffy (Y4)

Treasurer: Amelia Slocombe (R & Y2)

Prizes Secretary: Veronika Abdian (Y4)

Minnie Davies (R & Y2)

Mollie Sieghart (Y6)

Camila Reed (Y4 & Y6)

Ray Kilby (Y5)

We look forward to meeting you at our **AGM on 11th October** at 7:00pm Please come and raise a glass with us and help FOSMAS to be even more representative in the coming year. We want to show you how well the money raised last year has been spent, and to get a clearer sense of parent priorities for future spend.

A couple of other key events are coming up fast. On **26th October** we have our next **Blue Bag Collection**, ably organised by Sally Bessada. Have a good clear out before Christmas! Sort out all your old textiles, bags and shoes (see www.bag2school.com). FOSMAS raised over £1,000 last year through the scheme. We'd like to do even better this year!

On **Thursday 8th November** we have our annual International Dinner. St Mary Abbots parents are a diverse bunch! This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet socially and to sample all our multi-faceted and varied cuisine. Bring a dish, a salad or a dessert from a country you have links with. Help to set up would be welcome, too. More details to follow, but put the date in your diary now.

Let us make your donation 25% bigger

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Please sign a FOSMAS Gift Aid form – available from the School Office and on our website www.fosmas.info

Dates for your Diary

10th October Class Reps Meeting on Christmas Fair: 9.15am at Whole Foods

11th October FOSMAS AGM
7:00pm for 7:30pm , School Hall

19th October Cake Sale Y2 & Y3

26th October Blue Bag Collection

8th November International Dinner
School Hall 7:00pm for 7.30pm

23rd November Cake Sale, R & Y1

30th November Christmas Fair

20th December Christmas Party.

24th January Quiz Night

DID YOU KNOW?

If EVERY FAMILY in the school (not every child, every family) paid JUST £5 A MONTH to FOSMAS, and this was giftaided we would bank over £10,000 every year. That is an amazing amount of money - that coincidentally matches the amount FOSMAS donates to the school each year to pay for supplementary items / services and events to support and enrich the curriculum - "Mrs Doyle's Wish List" <http://tinyurl.com/fiveramonth>.

For your Christmas shopping will you consider spend and raise?

*By clicking through our web shopping portal you can access hundreds of retailers that will pay a commission to FOSMAS everytime you make a purchase. It costs you NO EXTRA - give it a go!
<http://spendandraise.com/FOSMAS/>*

More information on all of these events will be in your book bags over the coming weeks and is always available on our website www.fosmas.info.



WHAT IS FOSMAS ANYWAY, AND HOW CAN YOU HELP?

FOSMAS is a charity established for two purposes:

- To build strong relationships between staff and parents;
- To engage in activities or provide facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

We do this through organising enjoyable social events such as the International Dinner and next term's Quiz Night, and through fundraising events such as the monthly cake and uniform sales, the Blue Bag collection, the Christmas and Summer Fairs and the Fun Run. We warmly welcome creative ideas for new fundraising events!

The money we raise goes to pay for things like Science Week and Book Week events, theatre trips and new playground markings – the things that enrich our children's curriculum and school life on a day-to-day basis. We don't do large scale capital fundraising. That's the responsibility of the Governors. You'll be hearing more soon about their drive to raise funds for a major upgrade of the school buildings in the medium term. We've agreed to leave it to them to approach the big potential corporate sponsors for funds this year. That means that to keep funding the events your children love in the short term, we are more dependent than ever before on YOU to help make our regular fundraising events a success.

The Committee can't possibly do it all on our own. We need your help! There are about 150 families at St Mary Abbots. If every family gives just a little help, we can achieve a lot! We are very grateful for the work of your Class Reps (list on FOSMAS website), who do a great job of organising the monthly cake sales, building close links between "their" parents and pulling together volunteers for key FOSMAS events. They deserve your enthusiastic support. But we welcome individual offers of help too.

We're establishing a "**FOSMAS army**" of parents willing to sign up to an e-mail circulation list where we advertise the ad-hoc jobs that need doing on a one-off basis. Please e-mail secretary@fosmas.info to add your name – with no specific commitment!

Just a few examples of jobs we'll be needing help with over the year:

- People to help set up the International Dinner;
- People to help set up and run stalls at the Christmas Fair;
- People to decorate the school for the Christmas Party;
- People to help organise the Christmas Party;
- People to evaluate the options for fundraising through Christmas cards this year.
- Someone to take charge of the secondhand school uniform sorting;
- People to hand out refreshments and water on Sports Day;
- People who can do the occasional batch of colour photocopying;
- People to do the refreshment stall for the Fun Run;
- People to help organise the Summer Fair

We look forward to working with you all to support this fantastic school!

The FOSMAS Committee
secretary@fosmas.info

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