



Autumn 2019 Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE

OCT 31
Cake Sale 3:30pm

NOV 28
FOSMAS Decorating the school

NOV 29
Christmas Fair (School Hall)

DEC 19
FOSMAS Class Parties

FEB (TBC)
Quiz Night

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Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Friends of St Mary Abbots School (FOSMAS) newsletter. The FOSMAS Committee would like to update you on all the latest news about what's going on at our wonderful school and how we all can help to support and enhance the children's educational experience.

Firstly, a very warm welcome to our new Head Teacher, **Mr. Primrose**, and to all the new students and parents who have joined this school year. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Parents Drinks we hosted on the Sep 19th and at the Science Day on Sep 13th. We look forward to continue building positive, productive relationships between parents,

staff and other friends of the school to further support the education and experience of our children.

FOSMAS held their AGM on Oct 17th where the Annual Report was presented and committee members were elected. In brief, FOSMAS had an excellent 2018-2019 in terms of student events and fundraising. Every year FOSMAS raises funds that are 100% used towards buying much needed equipment (including the **Teachers' Wish List**) and organising a wide variety of activities for students, parents and staff. We hope to build on last year's success during the current school year and have a very busy calendar to look forward to. The highlight of this term is of course the

FOSMAS Christmas Fair, which will be held on Nov 29th. We also have regular 'cake and uniform' sales, with the next one being held on Thursday the 31st of October. Also on the agenda for parents is our Annual Quiz Night, and for the children, **FOSMAS** Christmas Class parties.

Finally, we would like to extend a huge thank-you to **Laura Sylvester** for all her years leading FOSMAS go from strength to strength. As she steps down from being the committee chairperson we should all draw inspiration from her commitment to the school and students.



Welcome Drinks

FOSMAS hosted the traditional Welcome Drinks on Sep 19th. This is an opportunity for new parents to integrate into our lovely school community, meet other parents and learn more about SMAS and FOSMAS.

This school year, it was delightful to see that so many Reception parents attended and showed a great degree of inter-

est on the school and the ways they can help FOSMAS. Thank you!

We all enjoyed a very nice evening with drinks and refreshments provided by FOSMAS.

Once more, we would like to welcome new Reception parents and all new parents to SMAS. In the next section we have the names

of your new FOSMAS Committee members. Please feel free to get in touch with any of us if you have any questions. You can also send an email to: committee@fosmas.info

Science for the Whole Family



School parent **Tammie Bishop** helped organise, with **Miss Chakiris**, the Science Day at SMA on Friday, September 13th, sponsored by FOSMAS. The Royal Institution took over the school and the children enjoyed science demonstrations throughout the day. In the evening, parents and families were invited to the School Hall for a memorable show.

What an amazing time! Adults and little ones took turns at the front with the master scientist to make water hold on its own, from an inverted beaker, fire made out of flour, and an impressive tug of war with 10 people each side pull-

ing, unsuccessfully, trying to untangle two thick catalogue books. By magic of friction we saw how pulling in the right direction makes one simple movement beat the strength of 20 people! Each experiment was more and more fascinating and we took home lots of ideas on how to make our own fun home experiments. Here is the link: <http://www.dnakids.co.uk>



AGM and New FOSMAS Committee

Our brand-new FOSMAS Committee was voted in at the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on Oct 17th. This is one of the most important events we hold as a charity and its open to **all members**. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped as elect the New Committee, got a copy of our Annual Report (and a summary of our 2018-2019 finances), and had a very interesting Q&A question with **Mr. Primrose** and our outgoing FOSMAS chair, **Laura Sylvester**.

First, a huge **thank you to Laura** for all the work she does and has done for the school and FOSMAS. We have been extremely lucky to have her and we hope to follow her example of dedication and commitment to the school and, ultimately, the children.

We are very proud of our new Committee. A host of parents from **older and younger classes** bring new energy and continuity to the good work of FOSMAS.

- Nicholas Kyprios** (Class 1 dad) is the new Chair. You will probably see him at drop-off (in his running gear) and pick-up. He also has two older children so, if you have questions about any stage of education, he's your man.
- Marina Lussich** (Class 2 and 1 mum) is our co-Chair. One of our most energetic and proactive members. If you want something done



ASAP (discussed, answered, replied and, if needed, posted, before the end of the morning commute), just ask Marina.

- Tom Wegelius** (Class 2 dad) is the Treasurer. He has all the up to date information on our accounts.
- Other Committee members include: **Sandra Vázquez** (Class 1 mum) as the Secretary, **Thea Lenborg** (Class 6, 5 and 1 mum), **Chloe Wainwright** (Class 1 mum), **Andrés Espinosa** (Class 2 and 1 dad), and **Ioana Bozan** (Class 2 mum)
- If you're a Reception parent and are looking for a more familiar face, we are delighted to have **Wouter van Aken** (co-Treasurer), **Jody Hammersley**, and **Joerg Oestreich** as new Committee members.

Expect to hear more from us in the coming weeks!

More information on FOSMAS events and campaigns will come to you via email and will also be always available online on our website:

<http://www.fosmas.info>

Friends of St Mary Abbots School (FOSMAS) is a registered charity no: 1030955

Follow us on Twitter: @ofabbots | School official account: @smaheadquarters

FOSMAS Finances



We are proud to announce that we smashed our 2019 fundraising target of **£25,000** by raising over **£47,500** (net of costs), an increase of almost 33% compared to the previous school year.

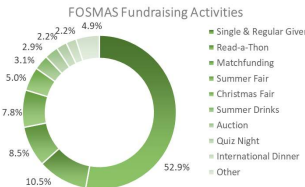
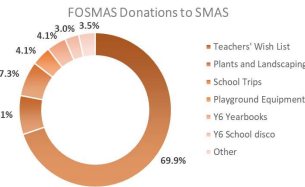
FOSMAS donated over £24,500 to the school including £17,100 for the annual **Teachers' Wish List**; £2,000 for new plants and landscaping in front of the school entrance; £1,800 for school trips; £1,000 for playground equipment; £140 for Christmas parties. We also funded Christmas gifts for the teachers, World Oceans Day, Year 6 Leavers' yearbooks and disco, a drinks evening to welcome new parents and refreshments for the Sports Day.

As usual FOSMAS organised a wide variety of social activities to bring parents, children, staff and

Governors together.

Thank you to all the parents that have signed up to CAF to give FOSMAS a monthly donation, and those who have given a one-off donation. We received an amazing c. **£25,500 in donations!**

FOSMAS ended the year with a healthy bank account of £96,973.56 split between our current account (£18,772.46) and our reserve account (£78,201.1).



The main fundraising sources where "Single & regular givers", the "Read-a-Thon", "Matchfunding" and our popular Christmas and Summer Fairs. The teachers' wish list was, by far, the main donation to the school (c. 70% of our contribution).

An electronic copy of the Annual Report will be sent to all parents and will be available to all members on our website: <http://www.fosmas.info>

As always, any comments or questions, please email: committee@fosmas.info



Christmas Fair

The FOSMAS Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 29th November. The children love and it's a great fundraiser.

We want to make this year's Christmas Fair the best ever, and would love to hear your ideas for stalls and games - or even thoughts on decorating Santa's grotto.

The children's and adult's raffles are the highlight of the fair. Do you have any prizes to donate? Please let your class reps know any ideas you have, or email the committee at committee@fosmas.info.

One of the most important jobs before the Fair will be decorating

the school for Christmas. So, we need help from as many parents as possible to decorate the school on Thursday, 28th December. Please make an effort to come and help. Putting the Christmas decorations up makes the school look magical.

In preparation for the Christmas Fair, each Class will be responsible for two stalls:

Reception— Kids drinks & snack, AND cake stall

Y1— Jolly jars AND second hand toys stall

Y2— Santa's Grotto AND letters to Santa craft

Y3— Hot food (pizza or sausages) AND hair braiding

Y4— Raffle AND a Christmas game

Y5— Tombola (all classes can be ask to contribute prizes) AND

Y6— Mulled wine & mince pies AND Christmas wreaths & plant stall

Class hampers: each class will also provide a hamper for sale via auction or raffle. Each class decides on a theme.

Your class reps will have to be in touch to help parents organise their respective stalls. There's only five more weeks to go.

Thank you for your help!

Get out the glitter...

Encourage your child's creativity and imagination by getting them design some Christmas cards and labels. It's always lovely to receive unique child designed Christmas cards. Grandparents, uncles, aunts and friends love them as they make a great keep sake. They also are a good fundraiser for our school. For every pack sold, we get £1.50 donation for every £6.00.

Please return the form back to school by Thursday 31st October!

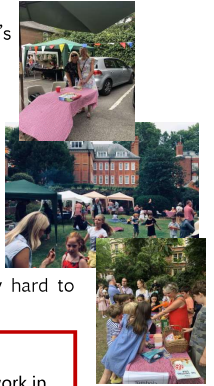


Summer Fair



Our Summer Fair was held on July 6th at the Vicar's garden. It was a brilliant day out and a great success. This year we had trampolines, a fire engine, face painting, and each class contributed with two stalls. The Vicar's garden was packed from noon to 4pm. It's a huge event to pull off and couldn't be done without the hard work of Class Reps and parents together with the FOSMAS Committee.

We had an excellent range of mouth-watering food, cakes and drinks. Our raffle prizes were fabulous too. Thanks to all the people who worked very, very hard to make it happen! The event raised over £3,750!



FOSMAS would like to thank...

Our outgoing FOSMAS Committee members **Laura Sylvester** and **Guy Regis** for all their hard work in the past years. We hope to keep up the good work they started, thank you!

Please sign up for regular giving

Every year FOSMAS set an annual fundraising target to cover for the Teachers' Wish List, small upgrades and other activities (e.g. school trips and events).

All funds are invested in events and facilities our children love, enriching the curriculum and school life on a day-to-day basis.

Please consider setting up a monthly donation to FOSMAS. Currently only a few parents give to FOSMAS on a monthly basis. You can donate via the

link on the FOSMAS website, www.fosmas.info.

Simply click on the "make a monthly donation" button. If you are a UK tax payer, make sure to click the **Gift Aid** button so we can maximise your donation (Gift Aid adds 25% extra to your donation, which comes from taxes). You can also use the link to make a one-off payment.

One click is all it takes...



HELP WANTED

Football tournament: we haven't had one last year and would love to start again. Please email us at committee@fosmas.info to volunteer.

Decorating the school (Nov 28): we need help from as many parents as possible to decorate the school. Please email the committee or let your Class Rep know.

Christmas Fair (Nov 29): This is always a big event and help to set up and clear up is welcome. Any volunteers please drop us a note at committee@fosmas.info or talk to your Class Rep.

School Plays (Dec 12): Please let the Committee know if there is any school parent who could film KS1 plays.

Mental health support at SMAS

Our school is supported by a key worker from the CAMHS - Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service. In this new school year Mr Joe Stone, child and family psychologist, will be working with the school for half a day each week, focused on teacher training and awareness, as well as working with the parents. He will organise coffee mornings for parents around topics of interest. The first one is in Nov 6th. If you'd like to know more please email the Committee at committee@fosmas.info

Matchfunding

Many companies throughout the UK offer employees the chance to boost their fundraising efforts by 'matching' the money they raise. Please reach out to your employer, and your PTA could double the amount of cash it raises! Let the Committee know at committee@fosmas.info. Our matchfunding officer, Ioana Bozan, will happily help you organise this.

Remember to fill in the FOSMAS Survey. This is your chance to have a say and shape the plans for our PTA: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NBHDJRB>