



Summer 2019 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the **Summer** edition of the Friends of St Mary Abbots School (FOSMAS) Newsletter. The Spring and Summer terms are the busiest in the year, with the Read-a-Thon, Fun Run, Sports Day, Cake and Uniform sales, Summer Drinks and the Summer Fair all taking place between April and July.

Our first **Read-a-Thon** was a complete success. Children read a staggering 198,000 minutes with

Class 4 reading the most minutes and being treated to an ice cream in the park.

We had a very active term with the **Fun Run** and the **Sports Day**, both at Holland Park, promoting sports in a positive and fun environment.

We were also very sad to say "good-bye" to **Mrs Doyle** at the Summer Drinks. We will always be grateful for everything that she's done for our beloved school and kids. **THANK YOU!**

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 28
Cake Sale 3:30pm

JULY 6
Summer Fair
(Vicarage Garden)

JULY 13
Y6 Disco night

SEP (TBC)
Parents drinks

OCT (TBC)
AGM & International dinner

LOTS OF FUN AT THE RUN!

Thanks to everyone who turned up and took part in the **FOSMAS' Fun Run** on May 18th. Around 60 people attended and we had over 35 runners, kids and adults, which is a great testament of commitment to our school.

Special thanks to Guy Regis, Alex Tovey, Chi Chi Luong and Matthew Lakapo Foulds who organised and guided the run, and made sure that all the runners stretched and warmed up. Thank you as well to all the parents who helped out.



Welcome to New Reception Parents

The new Reception class parents will be welcomed at school on June 27th and **FOSMAS** Committee members will join Mrs Doyle in giving them a warm welcome to the SMA's family.

It will also be the perfect opportunity to answer questions, share relevant information and guide them through this exciting new experience.

Every family will take away a copy of the "Be School Ready" magazine

from ParentKind which will help them prepare for the big change in their children's lives.

If you know a new Reception class parent, please forward them this Newsletter with our contact details. We are always available to answer any questions and welcome new volunteers.

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](https://twitter.com/ofabbots) | School official account: [@smaheadquarters](https://twitter.com/smaheadquarters)



Mrs Doyle delivered a very emotional and touching speech.

HASTA PRONTO TO MRS DOYLE...

On June 20, at the **FOSMAS** midsummer drinks event in the beautiful vicarage garden, we celebrated a very special event. The school community, current parents, governors, alumni parents and students, teachers, support staff all came together to say goodbye to **Mrs Doyle** who is retiring after 20 years as head at SMA School. Fr Gillian and his wife Linda made the trip from Whitstable to Kensington (for the first time in almost a year) especially to say goodbye to **Mrs Doyle**.

There were some short speeches and Becky Barrow presented a fantastic needlepoint tapestry especially commissioned and expertly stitched, for Mrs Doyle of the school building. There will be more gifts to come towards the end of term! (anyone wishing to contribute please email Laura Sylvester)

Thank you Mrs. Doyle for all your dedication and effort which helped to shape the school and sense of community that we all love. Thank you for providing our kids with an excellent education and preparing them for the next stage in their young lives. Thank you as well for being available to hear our concerns as parents, and providing us with much needed reassurance to let them go and be independent.

FOSMAS would also like to thank **Marough** for their continued support to the school in providing delicious food for over 200 guests that evening.



FOSMAS in the community

As part of the renewed FOSMAS Committee strategy we aim to reach out to the people and businesses in the local community who are all part of our school's live. We met with Kensington Business Forum Chair and Kensington Magazine editor Lucy Elliot on April 9th to brainstorm areas of collaboration. She also invited us to the "Revitalising Kensington High Street" event at the Town Hall where we networked and made contacts with businesses and institutions such as Japan House. If you know a local business who would be keen in getting involved, please email us at committee@fosmas.info

SMA's School Sports Day

Despite the appalling weather forecast and the possibility of a last minute cancellation, the SMA School Sports Day took place on July 11th at Holland Park.

FOSMAS provided fruit and water for the children's refreshments.

A very cheerful and lively Pacific Ocean team won this year.

Well done!



HELP WANTED

The Summer Fair is one of our biggest events of the year, and, as usual, we need LOTS of help. We need people to help with:

- Ferrying stuff from school to the SMA centre.
- Setting up from 9am and clearing up from 3pm.
- Adults' and kids' prizes for the raffle.
- Additional help with the planned stalls.
- We still welcome any ideas for new stalls.



SUMMER FAIR IS ALMOST HERE



COME and join us on Saturday July 6th at Vicarage Gate for a lovely day out at our annual Summer Fair. Its a major fund-raiser for **FOSMAS** and always great fun.

We will have several attractions for kids of different ages: trampolines, "Dash N Grab", tombola, bouncy castle, Lego station, face-painting...and much, much more.

There will be loads of mouth-watering food and drinks. Y3 parents will be manning the BBQ and Y6 will be selling strawberries & cream, as well as lemonade & watermelon.

We will also have children's and adult's

raffles with lots of amazing prizes.

Each class is responsible for two stalls:

Reception—Tombola; apple bobbing

Y1— Ice cream, cake & drinks; raffle tickets

Y2— Bouncy castle; Hook a Duck

Y3— BBQ; Lego station

Y4— Toys & books; trampolines

Y5— Bar; Dash N Grab

Y6 — Strawberries & cream, lemonade & watermelon; Coconut shy

Your class reps will have been in touch to help parents organise their respective stalls. Thank you for your help!

WORLD OCEAN DAY



The kids were very excited to celebrated a Science and DT Day on June 7th organised by Miss Chakiris and Miss Henley. This was a fun day which started with an ocean themed parade and was filled with science workshops, experiments and a DT project.

Parents were asked to kindly contribute £3 via School Coms, with **FOSMAS** helping with £170. This was an amazing opportunities for the kids to have fun while learning and promoting awareness about ocean pollution.

FOSMAS is committed to organising more of this type of activities, and is working with the Governors and the School towards this. Keep posted!

MUM'S PAMPER DAY

On June 14th, Louisa Snowsill hosted a wonderful beauty event at her salon.

Mums were treated to a mini facial or a hand massage, refreshments and even got a goodie bag! The products used (Tropic) were all organic, vegan and sustainable.

Mums had a lovely morning and left feeling energised and looking radiant. **Thank you Louisa!!!**

Louisa Snowsill - www.louisasnowsill.com



WHAT HAS FOSMAS FUNDED THIS YEAR



Thanks to all the generous parents and staff that we have at St Mary Abbots school, **FOSMAS** are pleased to report that we've raised **88%** of our annual target. So far this term, our main fund raising sources have been: (i) the read-a-thon, raising over £5k, (ii) Summer drinks (£2.5k, including match funding of £1k) and (iii) parents' donations adding up to £2.2k.

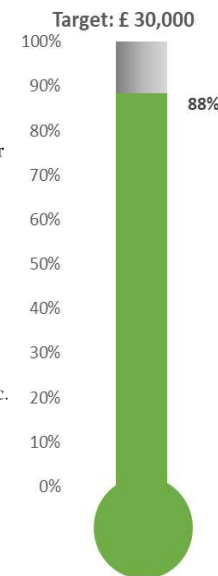
The money raised this year has been used or is committed to pay for the following:

1. Teachers' 2019 wish list (£18k), our biggest use of funds (60% of our annual target)
2. Gardening work at school entrance (£2k)*
3. School trips (£1.8k)
4. Playground equipment (£1k)*
5. Y6 leaving party (£0.8k)*
6. Other (£0.4k)

This means that we have already used or committed to use most of the funds we've raised (c. £24k vs. £26k, respectively). The good news is that we still have the Summer Fair, our main fund raising event, to include in our finances. Hopefully, with your help, we will be able to reach our annual target and save funds for other initiatives like the refurbishment of the three playgrounds, musical instruments, more school trips and science events, etc.

*Estimated values

**These are not audited values



One click is all it takes...

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.

So far this school year we have raised c. £24K and have given or committed to the school almost the same amount. 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.

Mental health support at SMAS

Our school is supported by a key worker from the CAMHS - Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service. In the 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. If you'd like to know more please email the Committee at committee@fosmas.info.

PLEASE NOTE: FOSMAS IS NOT the Governors' Fund (collected via School Comms). The money **FOSMAS** collect goes to an entirely **different** fund from the Governors' Fund.