

FRIENDS OF SALTERGATE SCHOOLS – CHAIR'S REPORT 2024

What a first year we've had!! It has been a massive learning curve for us all so thank you to all parents/guardians/school staff for the over-whelming support, and patience!

After forming in late April 2023, we had our first committee meeting May 2023 to start looking at what we could do to raise funds, and how we should get going as a PTA.

Our first step was to decide on becoming a 'Friends of...' rather than a classic PTA, as this would allow friends/extended family members to get involved, rather than just parents and teachers. We set up a bank account (not as straight forward as you might think), registered as a charity, set up a Facebook page, reached out for parent/guardian support and started planning our first events.

June 2023

Bake Sale - £341.55

This was so much more successful than we could possibly have imagined! Held on both the infants and junior playgrounds, the weather was in our favor, the donations were incredible, and the turnout was simply brilliant! Thank you to all for the donated bakes and for spending hard earned pennies.

Ice pop sale - £84.47

A bit of a last-minute fund raiser, mainly us wanting to make the most of the weather. A reasonably popular sale and one we will probably do again.

Movie Night – Cancelled

This was really disappointing for us to have to cancel. We had already paid for the movie license, had some great ideas for providing refreshments etc, but due to insufficient ticket sales we could not proceed. If there was likely to be enough interest in the future, we would consider trying again at some point.

July 2023

Summer Fair - £4800.28

I think everyone was blown away by the summer fair. Despite the weather really being against us at first, the numbers that turned up were fantastic! We had a good mix of outside traders, games, tombola's, attractions, an amazing raffle... and we had a huge number of volunteers, including the incredible RAF air cadets, who all enabled us to actually put on the type of fair we really wanted to. This will be a tough act to follow for summer 2024.

End of year BBQ/uniform sales - £219.29

This was our last event of the school year, it was really just for us to use up our leftover stock from the summer fair, but it proved to be more popular than we had expected. Again, the weather stayed on our side, just, and the atmosphere amongst all who attended was really positive. A lovely way to end the school year for summer!

September 2023

Quiz Night – Cancelled

Another disappointment at having to cancel an event. We simply didn't have enough interest in this one. This led to us running a colouring competition for the children on the reverse of a feedback questionnaire, so that we could gather feedback from parents/guardians on what events people would like us to run. Interestingly one of the items we were told people wanted was a Quiz Night!!

October 2023

Bake Sale - £225.25

Due to poor weather we had to move the bake sale into the Children's Centre, and although it wasn't as big a success as the first bake sale, we still took a fantastic amount, so thank you again to all who donated and all who came and supported us.

Autumn Fest - £213.01

We actually took over £600 on this event, but had big outlays for food/drink and supplies. So the overall profit was a little less than we had hoped but the turnout was brilliant and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves. The pumpkin carving competition was particularly popular!

December

Christmas Fair - £1932.47

My personal favourite, the Christmas fair was a fun afternoon for all. A mix of games, sales, food, tombolas, rainbow raffle and who can forget Buddy the ELF!! Another event that was full of positive feedback afterwards. Huge thanks again to all that helped, from the donations in the run up, to the amazing volunteers on the day. And to Mrs Hall and the school team for the hugely popular Christmas tree lucky dip prizes!

Elfridges - £402.99

Set up in the Children's Centre all the children were invited to come along and purchase a gift for a loved one at a set price of £2. The Foss team then took the gifts away to be wrapped and then returned to the children for them to give as a Christmas present. All the children seemed to really enjoy their opportunity to come and 'shop' for themselves.

Last Day of Term Sale - £302.01

Another opportunity for us to try and clear some of our leftover stock which proved to be more popular than we had expected. We also sold hotdogs and hot chocolates. Another lovely end to the term.

February 2024

Break 'Some' Rules Day - £634.36

This event was a big hit with the children. Who'd have thought breaking rules at school would be so popular? An easy one for Foss as there wasn't much to organise and no overheads involved. A huge thanks to Mrs Hall and the team for allowing us to put this event on, and for managing all the rule breakers throughout the day!

Bake Sale - £151.52

Our third Bake Sale, not as popular as the previous two but we still made a decent amount, and we also had a table of pre-loved uniform with a donation bucket. We will be offering uniform in this way at future events.

Fund 'Raisin' - £ 337.91

Another simple idea, children enjoy a box of raisins and refill the empty boxes with pennies. A good amount was raised, and the feedback was positive.

March 2024

Salter-Bars - £ 326.34

A 'Wonka-style' idea, prize winning tickets hidden inside chocolate bar wrappers. Another popular one, with some fantastic prizes. We were very lucky with some of the donations received and a big thank you again to Mrs Hall and all the teachers who donated some of their time for our 'silver ticket' prizes.

May 2024

Mini-Discos – TBC

We have had a fantastic response to our first mini-disco event. To ensure everything runs smoothly we have hired the Amazing Rascals Entertainment, which has not come cheaply but I am sure will prove to be well worth it. We will update you with the figures once the event has taken place.

Non-fundraisers

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Foss were very keen to assist Mrs Bond and Mrs Atkinson with this event. The funds raised totalled £71.19, and all proceeds were donated to MacMillan.

World Book Day – Free Books

To celebrate World Book Day we ran a free book event in the children's Centre, whereby all children were invited to pop along and simply help themselves to some free books. It was lovely to see so many keen readers turn up, you can never have enough books! We will certainly run this again.

Letters to/from Santa

This was just an opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer. Who doesn't love a letter from Santa?? No money involved but all the children who wrote a letter to Santa received a reply and all the feedback received was that they loved it!

Future Plans

On Friday 5th July we are holding a year 6 leavers party. We have enlisted the help of Rascals to put on the best possible evening. We will also be providing food and drinks. This is not a money-making event, just something we would like to provide for the Year 6 children to send them off from their years at Saltergate.

We have placed an order for an outdoor classroom/shelter for the Junior Playground. It should hopefully be installed over the weekend June 8th/9th. Pictures/plans will be shared to all this coming week.

Our next big target is to replace the trim trail, which has sadly been out of action for a few years now. The quotes for this are huge so we will be looking into grants/sponsorship to help.

Thank-You's

This year has been nothing short of phenomenal. But we could not have done it without a huge level of support.

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have helped us at our events. Also, for all the incredible donations we have received throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who has turned up to our events and spent their hard-earned pennies with us.

Thank you to the incredible Mrs Hall and her team of teachers/support staff. Without their support we simply couldn't do any of the fund-raisers.

Thank you in particular to Claire Tunney and Lianne Coilley, whose time I have taken up way too much over the year! More of the same for the next year I'm afraid!

And thank you to John Renicor for all the help provided, from putting up posters, to sorting equipment, and listening to me moaning!

And lastly thank you to the rest of the amazing Foss team!! It has been a stressful year at times, but we have really pulled it out of the bag. We've had some fantastic ideas, we have supported each other, and we have really come together as a team. What an amazing bunch of ladies!!