



Friends of The Crescent PTA
The Crescent Primary School
Toynbee Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 9DH



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FOTCfriendsofthecrescentPTA



FOTC_PTA

Chairperson: Amanda-Jane Wallis

Secretary: Samantha Churchill

Treasurer: Nick Whitemore

Friends of The Crescent School PTA Chairperson's Report For Academic Year 2022/ 2023

It's hard to believe another academic year has gone by since the last AGM but that also means that we've all now survived two years running FOTC! It's been a great year, we're a small committee but we have run a full calendar of events. We've got a wonderful team of willing helpers who have supported all of our events superbly. As an organisation as well as fundraising our aim is to provide opportunities to the children that their families may not otherwise be able to afford. We're also mindful of making all of our events inclusive for everyone.

2022/2023

Following last year's AGM we launched into the 2022 Christmas fete, which amongst many of the usual attractions, boasted a petting farm and an elf trail! Entrance to the fete itself, the petting farm and the elf trail were all offered free of charge.

Our final project before Christmas last year was funding and providing every child in the school the materials and instructions to make a Christmas tree decoration. This was really well received by the children, and I think the teachers were very grateful to have a pre-made Christmas activity. Then followed, preloved uniform sales, preloved book sales, the Mother's Day shop, the Easter Bonnet Competition, The May disco (which was first disco school had run for a number of years!) The Father's Day shop, the Summer Fete, the garden project, and this academic year we've already had another preloved uniform sale, the Christmas cards project, and the October disco!

Each of the events have been very well supported by the Crescent staff and the parents. We have been hugely encouraged by the amounts raised.

Recruitment

We continue our recruitment drive for helpers for events, ad hoc members and committee members. We have recently started using Microsoft forms links for helpers to sign up for events. This has had a better uptake than just asking parents to email us. Sam and I have spoken at the year R welcome meeting to try to encourage parents to get involved and Natalie has been promoting our work at the upper school curriculum info sessions for parents. We currently have a super pool of helpers but are keen to keep growing the list!

Housekeeping

FOTC is a registered charity and at our last AGM we voted on some changes to the constitution to reflect the smaller organisation we currently are and to assist with our smooth running. I can happily report those amendments have been lodged with and approved by the Charity Commission and all of our reporting responsibilities to the charity commission are up to date.

It is a requirement of being a registered charity that there are charity trustees and myself, Sam Churchill, Nick Whitemore and Natalie Preston are recorded as trustees.

Completed/Ongoing Projects

The main project undertaken last year was the garden project, this was facilitated largely by the generous donation from B&Q head office of a huge amount of free labour from B&Q employees, who painted the garden fences and sheds, cleared and planted many troughs and assembled the garden furniture. Mrs Hodges has

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painted really impressive murals which lift the whole garden space. The Crescent site team have also done a really excellent job of maintaining the garden. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to see the revamped garden and am certain all will agree it is a huge improvement and a lovely welcoming space for all the children to enjoy using.

The Crescent has been without a properly working sound system for much of the last academic year. The school asked the committee in September if FOTC would contribute £5000 towards the purchase of a new sound system which we have supported. The overall cost of the sound system was £25,090.11 with the school making up the difference from their reserves. The sound system is due to be installed before December and so will greatly benefit the school for all the upcoming Christmas performances and for daily use for teaching and the weekly assemblies.

We have also funded the author visit from Maz Evans to the School on 28th February.

More recently the School has requested funding for Santa hats for the school Choir as they have a large amount of Christmas engagements. There is also the request for a purchase of a school drum kit. These are both items which we can discuss at our meeting shortly.

We wanted to establish a range of short, medium and long term fundraising goals. With this in mind, in mid May Sam and I met with the school council and we listened to ideas from the children about what they would like us to fundraise for. Some of their main ideas included providing more shade on the school site during the warmer months, the provision of more breaktime entertainment and games, more outdoor seating and the planting of trees. Ice Lolly days and hot chocolate days, as well as pantomime and cinema trips were also suggested.

We hope to achieve a number of these in the coming academic year so here's to another successful year ahead.

The Year ahead and beyond

We're extremely excited to share our confirmed upcoming events for the academic year ahead. This includes the Christmas Market, together with free petting farm, Our second preloved uniform sale which will be in January, the Mother's Day shop, the Easter Bonnet Competition and Parade, the Fathers Day shop and the Summer Fair. We will aim to hold Christmas Craft making events for the children in December and a Christmas shop for the children.

We would like to grow further in the coming year, both in terms of our volunteer base and our committee membership. We wish to explore new ways of improving the level of support offered by parents/ carers in terms of volunteering for events. We wish to explore more funding by way of grants and sponsorship. We want to continue to provide a good level of financial support for the school for all extras not covered by the standard school budget.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to the present committee and to all the helpers for your enormous support you give the FOTC, and for being willing to continue for another year! During the year we've welcomed Odette Jacobs

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and Kim Christopher to our monthly meetings. We've also seen some new parents helping at our recent disco.

We've been fortunate to have the assistance of lots of new and existing parents over the last academic year. Even the most mundane of events require a good deal of 'man hours' to set up and run and we appreciate all the time put in behind the scenes, making bunting, folding raffle tickets, sending huge amounts of emails, painting murals, shifting and lifting, making soaps, crafts, time spent bulk buying items for events, to make the events run smoothly. FOTC really couldn't operate successfully without the support of you all, so once again, thank you.

Amanda-Jane Wallis

Wednesday 8th November 2023

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