



The Friends of Bilton Infant School AGM

4th October 2024

Chair's Report

This year was about new beginnings as we warmly welcomed Mrs Fawbert as our new Head of School, and FOBIS have been hugely appreciative of her support and enthusiasm.

This is also a year of goodbyes as we say farewell and thank you to Laura Allison, our Treasurer, who has provided her common sense and wisdom to FOBIS over the last few years. We thank her for all her wonderful support and wish her luck as George moves on from Bilton Infant School.

We are also ever grateful for all the support from the school and wider community (parents, teachers, local business and everyone who bought a raffle ticket...!) we couldn't do this without you.

Autumn Term

The new committee's first event of the school year was a Halloween disco for which we are hugely appreciative of DJ Ian T for supporting. The kids all had an amazing time and we give a huge thanks to the teachers who supported this event, so we could increase our capacity for attendees and give the parents a night off.

We also resurrected the Christmas Fair which we hadn't been able to run for a few years due to Covid and lack of volunteers. It was a great success and I hugely appreciate all the volunteers and teachers who stepped in whilst I was suffering from Covid myself. I hear the Baileys Hot Chocolate was especially tasty. We also really appreciated all the community support for our Christmas Raffle prizes.

We also were very excited to have a visit from Father Christmas himself, who travelled all the way from the North Pole to read stories to all the children and gave them each a book for Christmas. It really got the kids in the festive mood.

Finally we all were really impressed with all the wonderful Christmas cards designed by the children, and as ever the amazing designs for Bilton Bear's t-shirt competition. We also funded the annual end of term entertainment to get the kids in the holiday mood.

Spring Term

After the Christmas break we started the Spring Term with a book fundraiser where parents could buy discounted books and the school got book donations too. A win-win event with the school getting 60 new books for its library area.

We also held another great fundraising event, the Smarties Challenge where the kids filled their Smarties tubes with all the coins they could earn or persuade their friends and family to give them. It was a great success – the kids loved Smarties and we raised lots of money for the school. Thank you to everyone's support.

In March we held our annual Bedtime Stories event where our wonderful teachers organised some great stories whilst our volunteers plied the kids with hot chocolate and gingerbread men.



Finally the children were really excited when at the end of term the Easter Bunny came to visit and deliver them all some chocolately treats!

Summer Term

We kicked off the summer term with a new event, Easter Bingo! We ended up with a sold out event with nearly 90 attendees with many tucking in to a Fish and Chip supper from Fish Plus. We also hugely appreciate the support from the Co-op for our prizes for the event.

Before the end of term events, we took the opportunity to welcome our new parents at the induction evening and we hope they feel settled now in our lovely welcoming school. We also signed up parents for book bags names – did you know FOBIS fund the bookbags for every Reception class?

We then built up to our big event of the year, our Summer Fair. Thank you all who helped with preparations, setup on the day, running stalls and of course tidying up afterwards! Despite the rain it was a wonderful event, with dances for the children followed by bouncy castles, pizza, ice cream, fun stalls and of course the ever popular tombola. We also held our Summer raffle and as ever was bowled over by the support of our community. Thank you to everyone.

However it doesn't quite end there, as the end of term means saying goodbye to our year 2 leavers and we were busy with leavers books and most importantly the leavers disco. Thank you to Laura and the other year 2 leavers parents for delivering an amazing send off for the children. Also a special thank you to Robert Face who stepped in to DJ at the last minute.

We finished the year at the wonderful sports day event (where the sun did shine!) by running our last tuck shop of the year and providing lollies to all the kids as an end of term treat (and for the teachers for a job well done!!).

Fundraising

We also applied for a number of grants for the Wild Garden over the year and we were really thrilled to be granted funds from the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund and the Councillors Grant. This means we should be in the position to further progress the Wild Garden plans further and give our children and exciting area to explore.

We also undertake other fundraising activities throughout the year including Easyfundraising which is a great way to raise funds for free with your online shopping, Bag2School collections for unused clothes and also a Toys4Life collection for old toys. We also received a hugely welcome donation from the George – thank you.

Finally we also sell preloved uniform including having a stall at certain events. It's a requirement for schools to have a preloved uniform provision but it also ensures that cheap, good quality uniform is available to all, whilst reducing waste and raising funds. Please continue to support us in providing this service.

Spending

This year a lot of our donations went to improving the school environment with a large donation towards furniture for the new library area in the Year 2 corridor. We also have funded a lot of the bright new stickers that have gone up around the school, including at the well supported school community day. Further funding went towards the sensory area and book corners.



We were able to fund visualisers to go into each class to help the teachers display learning resources for the children on the whiteboards.

During the year we also supported the school in a number of other areas to enhance the children's school life including new joiners book bags, year 2 leavers books, a Christmas magician and gifts, Easter chocolates and summer lollies.

With we look forward to working with the school to see how we can further support them during the coming year, and in particular to utilise the grant money for the Wild Garden area.

Thanks

Most importantly a big thank you to our Treasurer Laura Allison. I certainly couldn't have made it through the year without you. You have made a real difference to the children and the school.

Thank you also to Lisa Osborne our School Representative, who acts as a fellow committee member and Trustee, and Anne Kilsby who has helped Lisa as a school rep.

A big thank you to all the volunteers have helped us along with way, be it a stint at the tuck shop, running stalls, sorting preloved uniform, delivering hot chocolate and gingerbread men or tidying up after a Summer Fair!

Many thanks go to the school staff who are always hugely supportive of our events and give up their time to support FOBIS and help make the events hugely enjoyable for the kids. A special mention must go to Mrs Walters (for our endless questions), Mrs Bond (for always making sure we have a ready pot of cash to hand), Mr Palmer (for always making sure our plans go to plan) and Mrs Fawbert (for her boundless enthusiasm and support).

Finally, a big thank you to the whole school community for supporting us, visiting events and donating throughout the year.

Helena Wallis
FOBIS Chair