



Friends of Bowes (FOB) 2016/2017 Chair Report

Friends of Bowes (FOB) is the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for Bowes New Southgate Primary School. Every parent and carer are automatically a member and we welcome and encourage everyone to attend our twice termly FOB meetings at the school where ideas and suggestions for future events are discussed.

Our aim, as stated in our Constitution, is to raise extra money for the school by running fun events for both children, families, parents, teachers and staff, and by doing so to develop and strengthen the school's community spirit. In the past we have equipped the school with many resources, including:

- Playground equipment
- iPads
- Books
- Indoor play equipment
- Classroom material resources
- Lower Hall sound system
- Astroturf

2016/17 has been a record breaking year for the FOB. We raised nearly £18,000 through various fundraising events, an increase of £5,000 from last year's impressive amount. Please see the Treasurers report for the breakdown of events/profits.

Cake sales have been highly successful thanks to the hard work of Tina Solari who has been coordinating them, and the class reps who have been organising them, not to forget the parents who have baked, donated and bought cakes. In total over £1,200 was raised and the proceeds from each year's cake sale went directly to those classes in order to fund school trips.

The two book fairs we ran in conjunction with Scholastic enabled the school to buy £738 worth of books, compared to £215 the year before. Enormous thanks go to Claire Reynolds who has been the main organiser of the book fairs.

2016/17 Events

We held some FOB regular events last year which included the Summer Fair, Christmas Hamper Raffle, Christmas Cards, School Calendar, Adult Quiz Night, Easter Egg Raffle and



Phil the Bag, as well the ever-popular Musical Bingo. All of these events made profits for the school and brought the Bowes community together.

We followed up the previous year's successful, if somewhat crowded, Winter Fair with a smaller scaled Winter Singalong to welcome in the Festive season in true Bowes style. We festooned the playground with fairy lights, served mulled wine, hot chocolate and snacks and sang along with the fabulous Bowes choir (with our thanks to Miranda for being a fabulous choir master) – this event raised over £723. We also sold and delivered our Christmas trees from a local Hertfordshire supplier which generated an income of £541.

To support the children's learning we also funded a Science Day with James Boffin, a whole school art project, the Fiver Challenge for Years 4&5, the Theatre of Law project for years 5&6 and the Year 5 canvas art project. We also gave £2,700 to update the school's class libraries so each class got to pick their own books to support their learning. We also funded a new music box for the school, as well as a new projector (at nearly £200 and £1,280 respectively).

We have also provided extra-curricular activities for the children, such as the Christmas disco, a visit from Father Christmas bringing presents, the children's' school quizzes, and Mr Marvel at the Welcome Evening.

These events and activities are only possible due to the hard work and dedication of many parents, carers and staff. We are very grateful for all contributions, whether it is in the planning, setting up or helping run the event.

Looking forward

Looking forward, we have a busy fundraising calendar planned for the forthcoming academic year. However, we are attempting to structure the fundraising slightly differently, delegating as many events as possible to groups of parents. This is designed both to lessen the burden on a small section of volunteer fundraisers as well as encourage new blood and new interest in the Friends of Bowes fundraising activities. In the atmosphere of current educational funding cuts, the onus must now be on parents to become actively involved in their children's all-round educational development. As I write this in October, we already have a fantastic team of parents who are organising a new style of Winter Fair, none of whom have yet been on the Friends of Bowes committee and whose enthusiasm and interest is a breath of fresh air. We are also exploring new avenues for fundraising, such as the London to Southend cycling event which will take place in July. By planning for new events like this we hope to uncover a new set of parents who will take part and expand our fundraising potential.



We have been very pleased with our continuing Facebook presence, which has helped to make communication between the FOB, parents and the school easier, and we thank Keeren Shah and Rosie Keeling for their help in setting up and maintaining our social media presence.

We are also looking to bring fresh talent and ideas into the FOB committee. Tina Solari and I have wanted to stand down from our current roles of Chair and Vice Chair, but have found little appetite from anyone else to take over. Therefore, we are both standing for another year, but our focus is very much on finding new people to take over from us. In order to do this, Tina and I propose to become Co-Chairs for this next year which will be our last, leaving the post of Vice Chair free for someone else to join the team, learn the ropes and hopefully take FOB to bigger and greater things.

Contribution to the school

At last year's AGM, it was decided that the FOB would ringfence £13,000 for the school's benefit. So far, they have used nearly £6,000, leaving an extra £7,000 available to add onto available funds.

Due to our extra fundraising efforts this year, I am very pleased to propose that we will ringfence a total of £21,000 to support the school this year. We have already agreed to purchase 60 new iPads to support the learning of children, totalling just over £10,000. We therefore now have £11,000 left and look forward to liaising with the Senior Management Team to decide how this money can best be of benefit to the pupils of Bowes New Southgate.

Thanks

As Chair, I would like to say how supported I have felt by everyone over the past year. The enthusiasm and dedication of committee members, parents and staff make each event a great success and I am proud to have led such a fantastic team who have achieved so much this year. Huge thanks both to the seasoned parents who have run around organising and to newcomers who have been willing to take on various responsibilities. Although I cannot individually name every helper, I would like to thank Gaby and Dennis for their hard work behind the scenes and the office staff for their continued support and patience. And not forgetting the committee members: Tina, Jenni, Ana, Kate, Grace, Keeren, Rosie and Lucy, as well as the class reps, who tirelessly help to organise events and help to keep the PTA working. A special mention must be made for Effie Demetriou, our Head Teacher, who encourages an easy, relaxed and productive relationship of cooperation between the school and the Friends of Bowes.

Friends of Bowes



grown ups be included

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone involved in the Summer Fair. We thought last year was a good year, raising over £8,500, but this year we actually raised over £10,000, which was incredible. This demonstrates the value of the community coming together and creating such a wonderful day for the children. We should all be very proud of ourselves.

Vicky Woodward
FOB Chair 2016/17