

FOSS

newsletter

July



Hello all,
In the final week of 2016/2017 school year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year. Be it your time, your money, your support – every small thing helps to support children in the Stepgates Community School family.

Events and fundraising

This term we have barely seen a week go by where there hasn't been an event, a sale or a craft activity! Firstly, thanks to those who sent money in for the **Father's Day** stall last month. As with Mother's Day, this year, we selected a mix of ready-made gifts as well as personalised crafts. As always, the craft gifts went down very well with the children as they lovingly created artwork which was shrunk in the oven and made into a keyring. We hope you liked your present!

The last second-hand **uniform sale** took place on Wednesday this week selling school jumpers, ties, cardigans, coats and bags. More donations would be very much appreciated as and when your child outgrows them!

A fantastic day was had by all at this year's annual **Summer Fair**. A host of school fair favourites such as lucky numbers, china smash, tombola, splat the rat, hook-a-duck, penalty shoot-out, bouncy castle, tuck shop and refreshment stalls filled the playground at Stepgates. Even the weather received the rain memo and dutifully stayed dry and warm until an hour after the fair ended!

Congratulations to Dylan and Rory Faulkner for creating the scariest, most creative vegetable monster. For hoola hoop stamina, Emilia Philpott and Grace were awarded top prize and will go down in Stepgates hoola history. Most importantly, the fair raised a staggering £1000 of vital funds that will go directly back into equipment and

experiences for the school, all while having fun in the process. Thank you to everyone who came along and spent their hard-earned cash!

A huge thanks to the army of volunteers including parents, grandparents, community members and teachers who made the day possible. A final thank you to Chloe Ramsbottom-Hill for coordinating the entire event.

Additional thanks go to all the community businesses who donated generous prizes, refreshments and time such as Radio Wey who compered the day, *Tesco Chertsey, Great Cockrow Railway, Leah Durrant, Federico's, Costa Chertsey, Thorpe Park, Bocketts Farm, Pizza Express Chertsey, Hobbledown Farm, Chobham Farm* and many more. And this was only June!

Only a couple of weeks ago Stepgates School competed in the annual **Black Cherry Parade**. It is no secret that, as defending champions, the pressure was on. Led by Adele Cutting and Paul Taylor, we successfully smashed the competition out of the water and was declared the winner in not just one category, but two out of three! Best School Float and Mayor's outstanding achievement ensured we skipped, whooped and cheered our way round the parade with true winner's pride. WELL DONE to everyone, particularly Adele and Paul. A final note is while this event is clearly a lot of fun, it is also a huge fundraiser for the school. With a little help from a winner's cheque, plus bucket collections on the route and the sweet tombola at the fair, we raised over £500 between FOSS and the swimming pool fund!

What do FOSS do with the money?

We get this a LOT. Where does the money go? Is this for the swimming pool? So let us answer: Directly on things that the

children/school need (read more below for recent spend) and No – the fabulous swimming pool fund is a fundraising effort separate to the funds FOSS raise.

In the last 4 weeks alone, FOSS has financed:

- Heavily subsidised school trips for the whole of this past school year. This equates to almost £300 per class to help the children to experience school trips.
- Several gazebo's for shade and rain cover during outside events such as sports day.
- Fans for classrooms during recent heatwave

Other recent requests we are looking into funding include a large printed Stepgates banner for support at sports and music events plus extra stationery supplies for 2017/2018 school year.

As many of you know, following some really useful feedback from parents, we changed the time and price format of the disco. This time, you could opt for the 'all inclusive' option (£4 for entrance, food, drink, ice pop and sweet bag) OR entrance only (£2.50) with additional costs on top for refreshments. The ever popular glitter tattoos were also available for an extra £1.50. The disco was really well attended and the children looked like they had a fantastic time taking part in new party games. Please be assured this was a bit of a trial of the new format so there are a lot of things to iron out and improve on for next time. Any feedback you have would be gratefully received!

Thank you again for your support this year. See (most of) you back here in September for more fun!

Please see page 2 for our final comment...

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL



Mrs Ward

FOSS would like to take this opportunity to say a very fond farewell and huge thank you to Mrs Ward for everything she has done for FOSS during her time at Stepgates. Too many individual moments of thanks to remember but here are a few of our favourites memories....

The time Mrs Ward encouraged a nervous sports day runner to finish the race hand-in-hand with her to rapturous applause from the crowds.

The time Mrs Ward stepped up to become Chair of FOSS when no one else wanted to! It wasn't like she had anything else to do after all ;) (Without this act FOSS wouldn't have been able to function!)

Who witnessed Mrs Wasp-Whisperer-Ward at this year's Easter assembly? A wave of panic drifted across the hall as a lone wasp wreaked havoc amongst the children on the floor. As Mrs Ward asked for calm, the wasp made a "bee-line" in her direction. Ever calm, Mrs Ward stood as still as a statue as it landed on her shirt to the backdrop of gasps from all the parents and children in the hall. Instead of flapping under the circumstances, Mrs Ward floated out of the side door where she had a word with the wasp who saw the error of his ways and went off to bother someone

else. (If anyone has ever seen the Michael McIntyre sketch about what kind of wasp person you are, you will know she is also known as a "stay-stiller").

An urban legend passed through the years was the time when Mrs Ward gave up her day job became a catwalk model for a fundraiser. She ensured her place in school couture history with this fantastic guest model appearance!

These are just a few memories of Mrs Ward from a few of the parents. There are countless occasions where Mrs Ward has demonstrated her support of FOSS. Whether it's encouraging parents, children or teachers to get involved in having fun raising funds for the school, carrying a money bucket along the Black Cherry Fair parade or the actual nitty gritty of clearing up after an event, Mrs Ward has been 100% behind FOSS and has always had the welfare, happiness and potential of the children at heart.

So from everyone past and present FOSS, thank you, for all your support, your championing, your influence. Enjoy your well-earned retirement!

And of course congratulations to Mrs Ford who we are delighted to welcome as our new Chief!