

# FOSS

# newsletter

## July



Hello all,  
In the final week of the 2017/2018 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

Christmas and June, Christmas and June. Every year, these are the craziest of months! As usual, we have barely seen a week go by where there hasn't been an event, a sale or a craft activity! So, first up, thanks to those who sent money in for the **Father's Day** stall last month. As usual, 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 drinks coasters for that special person in their life. We hope you liked your present!

We hosted our first ever **Bingo Night** in the school hall in June and had an absolute blast! With 6 brilliant hamper prizes, BYO drinks, the whole family welcome, snacks and a special bingo caller, the night saw us raise a very respectable amount for our first event. We are looking to host another evening in the Autumn/Winter term, so we hope you can join in.

A fantastic day was had by all at the annual **Summer Fun Day**. This year we tried two new formats; hosting on a Friday afternoon and on the school field. We appreciate that a Friday is not going to work for everyone, equally the Saturday often didn't either! So we are trying to find an even mix of weekend events and weekday events. The Fun Day was a huge hit, well attended and had some fabulous fun stalls for the children and adults to enjoy. If you want to see anything different/new next year, please, please do let us know, we are always keen for ideas and support. Most importantly, the fair raised over £1,300 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.

Additional thanks go to all the community businesses and families who donated generous prizes, refreshments and time such as Seymours Estate Agents, Co-op Chertsey, Great Cockrow Railway, Federico's, Bocketts Farm, Pizza Express Chertsey, Hobbledown Farm, Chobham Farm, the dancing performances, Mr & Mrs Barnes, the Scantlin family for the delicious beefburgers, Ellen Taylor, the Milton Family, the Edwards Family, and many more.

It was only last week Stepgates School competed in the annual **Black Cherry Parade**. It is no secret that, as defending champions, the pressure was on. Another amazing year led by Adele Cutting and Paul Taylor, we successfully smashed the competition out of the water and declared the winner of Best School Float. WELL DONE to everyone including 'Roots and Shoots' for the loan of the trailer, Jack Wallace, Adele, Paul, everyone who took part on the day and with arts and crafts in the weeks leading up to it. Stepgates shone in the community and I hope you all feel proud to be part of it!

And for the finale this week, the **Tropical Disco!** The hall was bursting with beautiful decorations made by the children, salvaged from the BCF float. Blue Planet has nothing on the school hall this week. We hope all the children had a blast racing around the hall on sugar highs and end of term craziness.

### Car wash

We are planning a Saturday morning Car Wash in late September once we are all settled back at school. We are on the hunt for helpers! As soon as we know the date, we will be asking (begging) for volunteers - be it half an hour – or the whole thing, anything you can offer will be incredibly valuable. Equally, please do bring your own cars along for a wash!

New committee members needed! We will be hosting a meeting to confirm new committee members in September. Between the existing committee we can cover most roles but we still need some additional people to step forward. Don't be alarmed about titles or commitments, they are set in place in order to retain our charity status. The truth is there is no one person responsible for all of this. Instead we need an army of volunteers

standing with us to continue to raise these vital funds and creating fun events for the children to enjoy.

### And to our year 6 parents

A special thanks to those Year 6 parents leaving this year, who have helped in some (and many) ways over the last 7 years as their child has progressed through the school. You have helped build the foundations of FOSS and we hope to continue as well as you have! Side note also for Year 6 leavers.... Please, please do donate any items of uniform in good condition (always a plea!).

**And finally...** by no means a record-breaking year, BUT we have raised an incredible amount of money steadily, all thanks to you. However, with all this fundraising this year, we have actually spent very little. This means that next year we are in the position where we can spend some of the funds! We are looking to fund a new PA system for the school hall, new IT software, outdoor portable shelters, classroom equipment, school field equipment and several more worthwhile items. We welcome suggestions from parents and teachers alike, so please let us know and I guarantee you it will be considered.

**Total: £4,592**

Tropical disco	£500+
Ice cream sales	£40
Summer Fair	£1,320
Uniform sales	£48
Bingo night	£130
Father's Day	£161
Mother's Day	£175
Coin Trail	£251
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	£111
Christmas Disco	£348
February Disco	£510
Secret Santa	£357
Santa's Grotto	£177
Halloween Disco	£445
Easy fundraising	£319

*Thank you and have a lovely summer!*