

# Friends of Smarden Primary

March 2022

To the Friends of Smarden Primary

Can you believe we are already at the end of March? Time certainly flies when you're having fun!

I pick up where I left off, in July 2021, just before our Summer break.

We started the Summer holiday with a "School's Out for Summer" picnic. A great turnout with families gathering to enjoy what turned out to be a gloriously sunny afternoon. The SHU stand did really well as did the cake sale! It's clear that parents are understanding the appeal of buying second hand uniform whilst doing their bit to help save our planet! A special thanks to Hayley and Stu Tucker for their joint obsession with washing and ironing all the donations to perfection!



The first big event of the FOSP calendar was the much anticipated FOSP Summer Ball!



What a night to remember! Originally planned for the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, due to covid, it was eventually rearranged for the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. A complete success in every sense of the word and a much-needed night out after lockdown. After expenses we cleared £5300. An incredible amount that we should all be very proud of! It goes without saying, a very long thank you list for this event!



October rolled in quickly after the ball, bringing with it Halloween. The excitement was real as usual! We introduced a second-hand Halloween Costume Sale which was a great success and raised £100. Special thanks to Becky Quinn. Lots of love and care goes into getting the donations rail worthy for the sale!



Halloween fancy dress day was great fun! We suggested a £1 donation from each child with a goodie bag in return. 161 goodie bags were made and distributed across preschool and primary school. This was all topped off by a scrummy Halloween themed cake sale!



In a blink, it was the run up to the Christmas season! Following the success of the Halloween SHS we trialed a preloved Christmas Jumper Sale. Something we will def repeat in coming years. It was well received by parents and I personally received a lot of positive feedback.



We thought that the Christmas Gift Fair was going to be a doddle following the mammoth task of 2020 in the tent. Alas, at the last minute it was nearly cancelled when TKAT let us know we could not hold it inside the school. The Flying Horse came to our rescue by providing a tent (phew!), it was absolutely freezing but as always, the spirit of FOSP shone through and the day was a great success. Lessons learnt from this one was that wrapping needs to stay in the same place. We cut it fine this time, causing a bit of stress to us all! However, all 750 gifts were wrapped in time (just).... next year, we'll have more time for mulled wine...I promise! 😊



Something really exciting and new this year was the Christmas Conference with Santa. Personalised to Smarden Primary, I can't tell you how many beautiful messages I received thanking FOSP for this very sweet video. It was aired to the school children during their Christmas lunch.



FOSP also provided each child with a cracker to help them get into the Christmas spirit!

The new year emerged and our first event was world book day. We hosted a second-hand costume sale which helped support parents for the day itself. We opted not to host the breakfast morning this year as the school had planned quite a few events on the day itself. Perhaps something we can re-introduce next year again?



The Valentine's Day raffle was a great success. A meal for two with a bottle of prosecco from the Flying Horse raised £275.50! A hugely respectable amount!

In the same week we supported the school Dance Presentation at the Charter Hall by providing refreshments alongside a cake sale.



Finally, Stories under the Stars, organised by the school and supported by FOSP. We hosted a refreshment stand, serving hotdogs, cakes, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. It all went down a treat, raising £260 on the night and a further £47 from the leftover cake sale the following day.



Our social media page is growing from strength to strength. After an initial "clean up" and security check of the page by Mrs Miller a couple of years ago, we are now running a tight ship with membership growing each month. It's a brilliant platform to share information safely. In the few months we have seen an 90% increase in posts, 145% increase in comments and 52% increase in reactions by our 170 members. This is what it's all about, spreading the word so a wonderful result!

I hope that you've enjoyed reading all about what we've been up to. Your support leads to many positive additions to the school and the funds we raise enrich your children's lives. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support!

A special thank you to my amazing committee, they are all busy Mum's and Dad's and the juggle is real for them all! They really are the kindest and most exceptional group of human beings. Everything you have read could not have happened without their help and support! Mwah!

With the warmest regards

Lesla x

