

An Introduction To FOSMS

FOSMS (The Friends of St Mary School) is a registered charity run by parents for the benefit of all pupils at our school.

As volunteers we raise money to enhance school life by funding special projects and purchasing items for your children that the school budget doesn't stretch to. This is how we make a difference:

Fundraising for Special Projects

One of our main roles is to raise funds to support special projects that enrich the educational experience of pupils. These projects include upgrading facilities, providing educational resources and paying for additional activities that enhance school life.

Filling the Gaps

We appreciate that the school budget can't always cover everything pupils need. That's where we step in. We bridge the gap by funding items and initiatives that the school budget doesn't stretch to. From classroom

materials to technology upgrades, we strive to provide the best for all our children.

Creating Memories

We organise and fund events that create lasting memories for our children and families. School fairs, cultural celebrations, and educational outings are just a few examples of the events that we plan and support.



Promoting Community Involvement

Through our activities and events, we encourage pupils, parents, teachers and the wider village community to get involved and become active participants in our school's growth and development.

Every pound we raise benefits **your** child.

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New Committee Appointments

Following the FOSMS AGM in September and the resignation of a number of members (*see below*), we are pleased to announce new senior appointments to the FOSMS committee. These are:

- Chairman: **Daniel James**
- Vice Chair: **Sarah Hunt**
- Vice Chair: **Jenna Kenyon**
- Secretary: **Seema Chudasama**
- Treasurer: **Caroline Roundell**

We wish them all well in their new roles - leading our fundraising, planning and running events and working with school partners to deliver on our targets.

To get in touch with a member of the committee, please contact them directly via email: info@fosms.net

Spooky Disco

Our recent Spooky Disco was a great success, with more than 100 pupils enjoying grizzly games, spooky treats and devilish dancing. We raised over £350 and - *by popular demand* - we're already planning the next one, so keep an eye out for more details coming soon.



New Members

We're delighted to welcome **Tamara Ali-Talib**, **Miriam Carr**, **Sophia Iqbal** and **Emma Wilson** who have joined the FOSMS committee for 2023/24 and we thank them for joining us.

Special Thanks as Era Comes to an End

We'd like to pay a special thank you to retiring FOSMS Chairperson **Zohra Nisar** for her incredible fundraising over the past six years. At the same time, FOSMS Vice Chair **Lisa Nelson** and Treasurer **Caroline Wells** also left their roles.

We thank them all for the help and support they've given to FOSMS over the years. You'll all be greatly missed.

And whilst we're saying thank you, we'd like to offer a huge thank you to all the parents, teachers and volunteers that have and continue to support FOSMS fundraising events.



2022-2023 Fundraising Review

The past year was a very tough year for charity fundraising everywhere as the cost of living crisis deepened.

Despite the obvious impact this had - we were able to raise an incredible amount of money thanks in no small part to the amazing generosity of our supporters.

Our fundraising activities included discos, raffles, our bonfire and fireworks display, the visit of Santa Claus to Mellor, calendars, a wine night, food fest and not forgetting the rainy but brilliantly supported Summer gala.

We're often asked what happens to the money raised - well, it is carefully invested in vital activities and resources requested by school and FOSMS work hard to ensure that any spending is always to the benefit of pupils.

Over the past twelve months, the money raised from various fundraising campaigns has been used on enrichment activities across school including:

- **24 New Classroom iPads: £8,375**
- **Playground Trail Repairs: £2,500**
- **Classroom Resources: £1,200**
- **Life Education Bus Visit: £800**

The total spend over the year is in excess of an amazing **£13,000** and this would not have been possible without the considerable generosity of our supporters, for which everybody in school is extremely grateful.

We regularly provide updates on the amounts we raise and how school is supported and this is always available at fosms.net/impact

Launch of New FOSMS Website

We're delighted to have launched a brand new FOSMS website.

Detailing who we are, what we do and - perhaps most importantly - the impact we have on the pupils in our school, the site is a hub for everything about FOSMS.

There's a calendar of forthcoming events, partnership opportunities and how you can get involved. Going forward, we'll be adding the facility to buy tickets for events online too which we hope will make things easier for everybody!

To find out more visit fosms.net

2023-2024 Fundraising Target

Although there is a never-ending wishlist of ways in which we can help support the school, we work with the school team to consider the projects that are best served by the results of our fundraising efforts.

We are busy working on our campaign plans and will shortly be able to provide details of a number of new and exciting activities ahead.

We will announce details of our major fundraising campaign for the 2023-2024 academic year in the Winter issue of **FOSMSFOCUS**.

How You Can Get Involved

There are a number of ways in which you can contribute to our fundraising efforts and they don't need to take up too much of your time.

There are many benefits to a small village school but it does mean that we only have a small number of parents who regularly attend our meetings and help at events. As a result, we always need more support.

There are many ways in which you can help our efforts - this could be attending

meetings, helping at events, suggesting fundraising ideas, supporting our events or by making a donation.

Our fundraising efforts would not take place without the help and support of our team of volunteers, who give their time and enthusiasm freely. Some bring fundraising experience, others their professional expertise, some offer practical help - but all provide a willingness to support our efforts.

We appreciate that not everybody can help every time - we all have busy lives - but if everyone could help just a little bit, we can make such a difference to all our children.

If it sounds like something you'd like to be involved with, then please do get in touch - we'd love to hear from you.

Forthcoming Events

We have a couple of exciting events coming up including:

Bonfire and Fireworks Display
Saturday 4th November from 5.30pm

Father Christmas Visits Mellor
Friday 8th December from 5.30pm

You can see our full calendar of forthcoming events at fosms.net/events

Next FOSMS Meeting

We are always looking for new members and parents or guardians with children at school are very welcome to join us.

The next meeting will be held at school on **28th of November at 7pm**.

Why not come along to find out more and see how you can help make a real difference to your child's time at school?

FOSMS
friends of st mary school

Learn more about us
and the work we do at

fosms.net

FOSMS, C/o Mellor St Mary Church of England Primary School, Brundhurst Fold, Mellor, BB2 7JT | info@fosms.net

Fundraising, payments and donations are administered and managed by Friends of St Mary School Mellor, operating as FOSMS, a charity registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. Charity No: 1080520.