

FOALS - Annual General Meeting

Chairperson's report 2014-2015

As a registered charity FOALS raises money to provide resources, equipment and social activities for the school and the students of Ash Lea. Fundraising is not an easy task as it requires a lot of motivation, enthusiasm and dedication from the volunteers that form the committee. We continue to be a very small committee and are therefore currently limited in how we grow.

At present, the committee is made up of 4 parents, 1 sibling and a school staff representative.

Chair – Maninder Powar

Treasurer – Janine Birch –Horn

Secretary – Sarah Lowe

School Representative – Jane Wood

Committee - Celia Woodford and Leah Woodford

Events Sept 2014 – 2015

Swims

Three swims were undertaken this year. The swims continue to be hugely popular and are enjoyed by students, siblings and parents/carers across the whole school. The numbers in attendance at the new February slot, however was significantly lower. Celia and Leah advise on variety and quantity, which in turn reduces wastage as well as providing a buffet that is well received by all. Upon reflecting on the lower numbers, it has been decided by committee to withdraw the new slot and replace it with a new event which is also less reliant on committee members.

Mums Night Out

Held at the Rose and Crown, Cotgrave, the committee had a chance to get together and not talk business. It was nice to catch up with some of our regular parents/carers of the school as well as welcome new ones.

School Fair

The Fair continues to be the FOALS largest social fundraising event. The new layout undertaken the year before was kept by the committee as the use of the kitchen made catering much easier and laying out tables in the hall enabled people to take in the atmosphere. The number and variety of stalls was well received with the only barrier to offering more stalls is in recruiting helpers to man the stalls. Requesting help has provided some manpower, but it generally leaves no room for error, and all hands are on deck to make it a success. The raffle is a real draw with fantastic prizes to be won and committee work hard to ensure that these are soured early in the new term.

Santa Train

Delays to the refurbishment of the guards carriage, which can accommodate 2/3 wheelchairs, resulted in not being able to offer places for wheelchair users for the second year. However, the decision was made to go ahead with the event as this information was confirmed too late for committee to consider other providers. The committee will look to establish a new venue if access for wheelchair users is still not available in the coming year.

Quiz Night

Running the bar for the first time saw an increase of work for the committee, but it was agreed that it was great fun and rewarding. The fundraising event saw an increased profit from the previous year. A new cater was well received and it was agreed to use them again. The success of the night was based on the committee working so well together in the run up and on the night.

Third fundraising event

The limited number of committee members continues to be the limiting factor in holding a third fundraising event. Alternating the quiz with a different event has been discussed.

New logo

The committee felt that the old logo didn't represent who we were and so the concept of our new logo was born and we are very proud of it.

Chocolate/Sweet Tombola

An event very much enjoyed by the students and their siblings at the School BBQ. For effort versus income it's a great fundraiser for FOALS. This is largely helped by school enabling us to have a non uniform day in exchange for confectionary.

Centralised system

Paperwork is now held on Google drive which enables everyone to have access to documents wherever they are.

Final Note

Winning £3,000 from the Lloyds Community Fund has boosted the committee's bank balance and provided a much needed buffer. We can with more confidence commit to paying for events aswell.

Getting new committee members continues to be a work in progress and limits how we grow. However, even with our small team we continue to find ways to increase revenues in the events we hold. I am really proud of what we achieve and particularly proud of how everyone works together to make it all come together so seamlessly and effortlessly.

Maninder Powar