

## **FOWCS Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

### **Quiz – 29<sup>th</sup> January**

All were very pleased at the response to the Quiz Night. Sold out within 48hrs with 16 teams! We will look to put on a further Quiz night in September/October.

Further fundraising at the Quiz night suggestions:

- A Joker where you can double your points, but buy back for £2 if you wish
- £1 in a bucket – win % of prize money
- Raffle
- Heads and Tails game at the end of the night

We will use the PA system, tables and chairs from classrooms and laptop connection for an interactive media round.

### **Spring Disco – 12<sup>th</sup> February**

DJ all booked will be KS2 only. Suggestions were put forward to make it longer for children and easier for parents.

We have decided to start the Disco at 3.30pm straight after school. Letters will go out requesting children bring their change of clothes to school (and a small snack if they wish) and will change in the classroom – YR6 will have a suitable changing area within the school. This means parents do not have the struggle of picking them up, changing and coming back to school in a short period of time.

Pick up will be from the main hall around 5pm allowing time for children to get their bags. Letter will be sent out soon.

### **Mother's Day Coffee Morning – 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Starting from 9am – there will be a soft play area and also a craft area to make cards etc. We would like to do this alongside a Year Group to help with their interest in baking and crafts. This will also raise parental attendance and assist with cake donations for the morning, very similar to the Free Trade Coffee Morning the YR5s put on – which was a lovely event.

A raffle will run throughout the morning to win Tea for 2 at a local Tearoom

### **Easter Egg Hunt – 24<sup>th</sup> March**

This was originally going to be an inflatables event alongside the Easter Egg Hunt but with the possibility of bad weather it was agreed that these would be separated and the Inflatables Event will be at the end of May.

Mr Pryke will look into the possibility of making this an activity within the Children's University Trust for any children needing extra 'stamps'. This could be within school hours or straight after school to enable younger siblings to join in.

After discussion we agreed that parents may wish younger siblings to join in and it may be difficult asking staff to take around large groups of children without them passing on the answers within school hours. So we shall hold the event straight after school using as much of the school grounds as possible subject to weather conditions. Event flyers to be issued throughout the school at the beginning of March.

### **Friendship Bench**

Although we are fundraising for new play equipment, which will hopefully be bought and installed this year, FOWCS felt they wanted to give something more immediate to the children. A lovely idea seemed to be a 'Friendship Bench'. With this in mind, All fundraising for the Mother's Day Coffee Morning and Easter Egg Hunt will go towards a school 'Friendship Bench' - this is perfect for any child who needs reassurance or wants to make new friends and teaches a caring way to play. We hope you agree it will make a lovely addition to the School's play equipment. Throughout the discussion we considered different types and we are now looking for a bench using recycled plastic to encircle a tree planted in the middle. This could lead to a small ceremony for the local paper and highlight our fundraising further for the school.



### **Inflatables and Picnic Event – End of May**

This will be a new event and hopefully the weather will be nicer towards the end of May, just in time for the half term. We can offer wristbands and 2 separate areas with a soft play area for pre-schoolers. It will be open to the entire community. Discussion veered more towards this being an after school event where visitors can bring their own picnics and have a relaxing time. We will look into providing ice lollies and catering van onsite. More information to follow...

### **Ice Lollies**

We had a great turn out for every ice lolly sale last year. It was originally suggested for Sports Day only, which was unfortunately cancelled, but proved so popular we extended it. We will again provide lollies for this year's Sports Day and on an adhoc basis for Fridays that are sunny and the last day of term.

The problem last year was that lots of people were left disappointed when we ran out, as we were unable to buy too many lollies without adequate storage – we are looking into a portable freezer in the YR6 group room so we can bring the lollies out in stages and store more. We will ask parents if anyone has anything suitable to keep our costs down.

## Cinema Events

For the past couple of years we have made several trips to the cinema for Easter and Halloween – This Halloween was so popular we had to hire a bigger screen size but still couldn't keep up with demand. This year the sequel to 'Finding Nemo' will be out in summer so this may be a lovely option. Other suggestions were a Star Wars event on May the 4<sup>th</sup>. The film is a 12A so would need adult supervision and may deter some parents. We will keep an eye out for new releases and would appreciate any suggestions from parents.

## Summer Fete – 10<sup>th</sup> July

This year the School have decided that the fete shall be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 12-3pm. We hope this will be met with the same enthusiasm and support as every other year. We **ALWAYS** need parents to help with stalls, BBQ and to buy raffle tickets. We have increased the number of advertising boards and have a dedicated team of leaflet droppers – we are so grateful to all those who have helped and would like to increase the helpers further this year.

YR6 will again play a huge part in the fete as they are brilliant throughout the day. They are so enthusiastic, polite and helpful and the feedback from visitors has been very complimentary.

The BBQ was again very successful and always has a large queue. With this in mind we will look into providing other food items such as Hog Roast, Cream Teas etc.

It was also noted that where we have the refreshments indoors and try and block off access to the school as best we can, visitors were still gaining access within the corridors, which is out of bounds. We will need to look into this further.

We will research buying a new raffle drum, this is something we have tried to put off to conserve funds but for the last few events the drum is not really big enough to hold all the raffle tickets!!

The licenced bar is something we desperately need to change. We feel in previous years we have been undercut by the companies who were providing a service and paying us a percentage of takings for managing it. We could try and take on the responsibility ourselves, although this could lead to not enough stock as we are unsure of how much to buy. Also a lot of preparation time would need to go into making the fruit for Pimms etc. We have asked the Lions Organisation to look into it for us as they run the Beer Festival and will already be attending with the Lions Train. We will update as soon as we can

**IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER HELP OR HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR THE SUMMER FETE WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU [fowcs@outlook.com](mailto:fowcs@outlook.com)**

## Other Business

- We are often asked about how much we need to raise in our fundraising for the new play equipment. A decision has not been reached by the children as to the final design, but we estimate this to be in the region of £17,000, giving the Infants and Juniors designated areas that will then join together. We have raised many thousands already but with support from a Lottery Grant we may have our total soon. We will look for a 'Fundraising Thermometer' to be displayed in the office so it is clear how much we have raised from each event and where we are with our target.

- More storage space – As we near either the Summer or Christmas Fete, we quickly run out of space whilst preparing the school stalls, raffle prizes etc. We will look for more storage boxes aswell as looking to purchasing more storage space in the future. We plan to spend a day clearing out the main shed to give us more room and see what hidden gems we may have in there.
- The gazebos we have are no longer useable through years of use. We will put a request on the next newsletter to see whether any parents have ones they can donate, we will also keep our eye out for any bargains.

**We will put donation requests out periodically. We are a large school and to make the Summer and Christmas Fetes as profitable and fun as past years we need the support of all parents. Over the past years we have tried to be as accessible as possible with a direct email address [Fowcs@outlook.com](mailto:Fowcs@outlook.com) and an online presence on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FundraiserFoWCS/?ref=bookmarks> aswell as updates on the main School Website.**

**We love to hear from parents/carers and would like to say a huge thank you to the new volunteers who have come forward to help in different ways, but please remember we always need more!**