

FOWAS (Friends of West Ashton School)
AGM September 2017
Chair's Report

Introduction

The start of the academic year 2016-17 heralded another period of change at West Ashton School, where the need to support the school community was as vital as ever.

Events 2016-2017

September 2016

Scarecrow Trail

The West Ashton Scarecrow Trail returned for its second year, thanks to the organisational prowess of Ruth Heywood. This year the theme was 'Family Games', with many children, staff and parents showing incredible creativity with their contributions to the Trail. Thanks again to Jo Squires for providing the dingbats and to those who helped with providing and serving tea and cake to the families, which was especially welcome on the Saturday as rain threatened to stop play. The sun shone on Sunday though, heralding the 2016 Scarecrow Trail a wonderful success, in which numerous villagers supported and many families enjoyed!

December 2016

Christmas Pyjama Party

The return of the ever-popular Christmas event saw the school hall transformed into a festive wonderland. Hot chocolate and marshmallows with stories and carols around the Christmas Tree before settling down to a movie with popcorn. This year we decided on a Pyjama party and included crafts and games from the outset as we had to do a combined event for KS1 and KS2 due to low numbers on roll. The party went well and the copious amount of glitter was enjoyed by children and adults alike. We had many more parents stay to help which was very welcome and made for a successful event!

March 2017

School Disco

The spring term was busy with fabulous events for both children and parents. The March school disco was well attended. Disco Martin was on hand to make sure all the children had fun from the little Robbins all the way up to the

more savvy Eagles! No mean feat I can tell you! A break in the dancing for snacks gave all a chance to calm down. Lessons learnt on this was that three hours was too long for a disco and that catering for 4-11 year olds on one disco event was very tricky.

March 2017

Pre-Mothers Day Pamper Evening

March also saw the introduction of our first Pre-Mothers day pamper night, organised by the irrepressible Cara Williams. The school hall and classrooms were transformed into a haven of calm and relaxation. Candles glowed and fizz flowed as the wonderful therapists treated the tired mummies to an evening of pampering. The school has never smelt so fragrant!

April 2017

Easter Egg Trail

The spring sun shone on our Easter Egg Hunt in April. Our fabulous Ruth Heywood organised the event and gathered up eggs decorated by the children to place around the school site. To win a chocolate egg, the children (and some petulant adults) had to complete the hunt and solve the puzzle. Families stayed to enjoy tea and cake whilst the children made wonderful Easter creations at the craft tables! A lovely spring time event but we considered that to run it over one day in future may be adequate.

People's String Foundation Workshop

This term we are lucky enough to welcome back the People's String Foundation for their musical workshops. The children were so inspired by their last visit in 2015, so we are all maybe looking forward to seeing the chaps again next year.

We started the summer term with a new name for our PTA. Following an extraordinary general meeting last term, it was agreed that the Parents of West Ashton (POWA) was not a suitably inclusive name and that membership should be changed to include grandparents and friends of the school as well as parents, careers and staff. Hence Friends of West Ashton School was reborn and as 'The Friends' we looked forward to supporting the school with our continued passion and commitment.

July 2017

Family fun evening

Ahhhhh the English Summer, where you can get sun burnt and soaking wet in the same afternoon! Luckily the sun shone for FOWAS's annual Family Fun

Evening. The weather was glorious for all the children and parents to enjoy the festivities. Attractions included the usual inflatable bouncy play equipment, BBQ, bar, glitter tattoos, face painting and tombola. Following last years success, we were also lucky enough to offer donkeys rides and our very own ice cream van! Trowbridge and District Youth Band were also invited to provide musical entertainment and really created the summer fete atmosphere with their stunning playing.

Through the support of many parents, children and staff the event was a huge success which raised lots of money which will go to enhance the school experience for the children. A huge thanks to all involved! It was a privilege to be amongst all the smiles, laughter and sticky faces. I feel so proud of how hard everyone worked together to create such an enjoyable event.

Other fundraising:

'5p Fridays' (organised by Jo Squires) is still raising funds for the school. It was suggested that we consult with the new student council over a potential projects. We have supported many fundraising events raising money for Cancer Research, McMillan coffee morning and Red Nose Day.

Benefits to the school:

This year FOWAS has supported the staff and children by providing or contributing to projects that, in these tricky financial times, the school could simply not fund:

- Circus workshops for KS1 and Portals to the Past Viking day for KS2
- The redecoration of the entrance hall
- New House Team Boards
- The Trophies for the Final Celebration Assembly

FOWAS also funded over £1000 of sports equipment for the school including new netball hoops, goal posts, balls and sports day bibs.

Officers

Chair	Mari Webster
Vice Chair	Felicity Bath
Treasurer	Victoria Montacute
Secretary	Ruth Heywood

Committee Members

Jo squires

Donna Turnbull

Cara Williams

Vicky Metcalfe

Summary

I'm aware some may think the PTA is not for them. I'm also of the understanding we can be a little annoying at times when time is one thing that is so precious. New members or volunteers would be so so welcome and are much needed. Fresh ideas and energy would help to create a new vigour within FOWAS and many hands make light work. I have to say that I am incredibly proud of how our school has weathered such change over the last couple of years and how privileged I feel to be a part of such a committed and passionate team, supporting the educational life of our children. Thank you to the governors, parents and teachers who support the work FOWAS does and an even bigger thank you to my fellow officers and committee members and volunteers for all their time, effort and for just being amazing people!