



January 2024

FOMSA Spring Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

A belated Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break (it may feel like a distant memory now) and are ready for the Spring term.

The Autumn term was a busy and really successful one for FOMSA.

Storm Babet certainly changed the end of half term but the children still enjoyed having Break a Rule-day and came to school in coloured clothing. Thank you for the donations for our Christmas hamper raffle. The rearranged disco was also a fantastic success and we had so many children come along. It was lovely to see the children having so much fun with their friends.

Thank you to everyone that attended our AGM. We were very pleased to welcome Lucy Draper-Lewis, Emma Cook and Rob Cook who have now joined the committee and have already been involved with our events. Thankfully this now brings our committee numbers up to 7. Here are the details of this years' FOMSA committee. You will see that we have several members whose children are in year 6 so we ideally need some more people to come on board. Please message us or come and speak to us if you would like to get involved either as a committee member or as a FOMSA helper.

Committee Member	Children at School
Danielle Fletcher (Chairperson)	(Year 6) (Year 2)
Alison Millin (Secretary)	(Year 3)
Sarah Gray (Treasurer)	(Year 6)
Anna Dawson	(Year 6)
Michelle Crisp	(Year 4) (Year 2)
Lucy Draper-Lewis	(Reception)
Emma Cook	(Reception)
Rob Cook	(Reception)

* Christmas Card Orders - Thank you to everyone who ordered Christmas cards, mugs, coasters and tags. We received 59 orders. This continues to be a popular fundraiser and it was great to see the children's designs.

* Bags to school - Thank you for having a sort out and filling bags for us. We raised £155 from this. We are having another collection in April so if you are able to, keep filling a bin bag for us of any of your unwanted clothing.

* The Christmas raffle was again a huge success and we congratulate everyone for your efforts in selling and buying the raffle ticket books. An amazing number of tickets were sold. We did have some outlay for this needing to renew our license to sell the tickets and ticket printing costs but an amazing profit of £701.11 was made. We hope everyone enjoyed all of their prizes. A massive thank you to Mendlesham Fish and Chip Shop, Stonham Barns Adventure Golf and Baylham Rare Breeds Farm for donating vouchers to us for the raffle. We really appreciate your support.

* Donations for refreshments at the Christmas shows went towards buying crackers for the school Christmas dinner. We know the children always enjoy these to make the meal that extra bit special.

*The Christmas Market was a fantastic way to end the term. There was a lovely buzz in the hall. The choir sang brilliantly and were a joy to hear. Thank you to all the FOMSA helpers and children that helped run stalls. Thank you to all of the fantastic bakers that helped create an amazing refreshment stall. Thank you to everyone that came along to be part of it. We could not have had such a wonderful event without all of your help and support.

The winners were:

What's in the stocking: 1. Michael Blair 2. Jacob Carly 3. Ellen Gray

The items in the stockings were a toy car, toothbrush, 50p, apple, spoon, piece of Lego, key and a pine cone.

Sweets in the Jar: Sophie guessed the exact number of sweets in the jar which was 104.

Marble game: Adult winner = Michelle Crisp 60 marbles Child winner = Freddie 60 marbles

* We ended the term with the annual visit from Father Christmas. He visited each classroom and all of the children received a book from him. Thank you, Father Christmas.

Fundraising for the Autumn term from Bags 2 School, Easy Fundraising, Ink Cartridge Recycling, Break a Rule Day, Christmas Cards, Donations for Refreshments, the Christmas Market and the Christmas Raffle made a fantastic profit of £1414.76.

As a result of our fundraising, we helped Father Christmas by purchasing his Christmas books for the children.

We are also really pleased to announce that we have been able to donate £2500 towards the school library project. The villages Education Trust has also donated money. The furniture has now been delivered and assembled. FOMSA will be adding further shelving units and more books as the project progresses.

Once all of the new shelving and furniture is in place the school are going to plan a special library opening celebration which everyone will be able to attend. We are all very excited to see what it will look like. Well done everyone for your support of our events to enable this big project to happen.

Spring Term: FOMSA are hoping to run the following events:

Fortnightly Bake Raffle

We have decided to continue to pause this event for this term. Instead, we will be asking for donations of cakes, biscuits, Easter nests and baked treats to help us create a refreshment stall at the Easter Treasure Hunt. We hope lots of people will offer their support and help to this. Information about how to help will follow nearer the time.

Break a Rule Day:

This will be held on **Friday 16th February**. The School Council will again decide the theme and then the school will let us all know. Come to school breaking the rule in exchange for a suggested donation of £1.

School Disco

Mrs Sait and FOMSA would like to run another school disco for the children. This will be on **Friday 16th February from 5pm to 6.15pm**. More details to follow in a letter.

Good Friday Easter Event

FOMSA will be running our annual Easter Treasure Hunt in the Millennium Woods.

The event will be on the morning of **Good Friday, Friday 29th March from 9:30 to 1:00**. The event starts and ends from the main school hall. Please collect your entry forms from here. Come and solve the trail and enjoy Easter goodies for entering. Refreshments will also be available along with other Easter activities. More details nearer the time.



Bags to School

We will again be sending out bags and asking for donations of unwanted clothing. The collection day will be **Wednesday 24th April** which is after Easter. Collection bags will be sent home with the children before the Easter holidays. More bags will then be available from the school Office or alternatively please use bin bags. Please remember we do not have space to store filled bags so please bring them to school on the morning of the **24th April**. We will send out reminders nearer the time.

Ink Cartridges

Did you know that we raise money from recycling used ink cartridges? Please put any empty cartridges through the school post box in a sealed bag labelled ink cartridge recycling.



Easy Fundraising

Have you signed up yet? So far, we have raised £316.05 from this. If you shop online, you can raise money every time you buy something. Retailers will donate a percentage of what you spend to us to say thank you for shopping with them. All you have to do is register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and when asked to choose your cause type in **Friends of Mendlesham School Association**. Each time you want to shop at one of their partner retailers just click to the retailer website through the link on the easy fundraising website (or download the reminder widget to your desktop and be reminded each time you go to a partner retailer website). It is a simple way to raise money for the school **without it costing anything other than what you are buying**.

Donations: Can you help?

Do you have excess food and drink left over from Christmas or any unwanted gifts that you would like to find a good home for? FOMSA are looking for donations for upcoming events and any items would be greatly received. Please give any donations to the school office. Thank you in advance.

If you have any ideas or anything you would like us to consider please get in contact.

Chairperson: Danni Fletcher 07824340695

Secretary: Alison Millin 07841646569

Many thanks for your continued support, The FOMSA Committee.