



FOMSA Summer Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Can you believe we are into the summer term already!

The Spring term saw some changes and a sense of getting back to normal for FOMSA. One of our favourite fundraisers returned, a school trip was able to happen and we said goodbye to a long serving member of staff who has been of great support to FOMSA.

Last Term Recap:

Break a Rule Day

Sadly, due to the high winds the usual Break a Rule Day, before half term had to be postponed. Luckily, we were able to rearrange this for the end of term instead as a non-uniform day. Thank you to everyone who sent in your £1 donation for this. We raised £85.45 for the school.

Bags to school.

For Bags to School, we had an incredible number of bags donated. We raised £140 for the school thanks to everyone's recycling.

Bake Raffle

The fortnightly Bake raffle continues to be popular. Thank you again to the wonderful people that bake for us - we really appreciate your support as do the lucky winners who get to enjoy the treats!

Recent winners were:

- 21st January Charles in Willow Class
- 4th February Poppy in Chestnut Class
- 11th March Charles in Willow Class
- 25th March Alfie in Oak Class
- 8th April James in Oak Class

The bake raffle will continue until May half term.

KS2 Theatre Trip

FOMSA felt that the children had missed out on many opportunities during the pandemic that would normally be part of school life. We suggested to school that we would like to fund a school trip for all of the children as a way of 'treating' them after all they had been through. We were so pleased to be able to pay for the tickets for all of the KS2 children and staff to watch 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' at the Theatre Royal in Norwich. What a fantastic experience for these children. We know they had a wonderful day and it was so lovely to see the coaches return with lots of happy, smiling children. We were so pleased to hear from many parents who said how much their children enjoyed the trip. We now look forward to hearing what KS1 (Reception, Year 1 and 2) would like to do.

Eco Rangers: Habitat Project

At the end of term, we had a request from the schools ECO rangers and Mrs Churchill. They wrote us a fabulous letter telling us about their habitat project that they would like to develop in school during the summer term such as setting up some planters and buying some plants for these, solar-panel oxygenators, pond plants and a water butt to help look after the pond. FOMSA were very pleased to say yes to their requests and have given them £500 to get their project started. We hope that they will share some photographs with everyone so we can see all of their hard work.

Goodbye Mrs Cracknell

It was with much sadness that we said goodbye to Mrs Cracknell. Mrs Cracknell has been such a support to FOMSA helping us with too many things to mention. We were very pleased to present Mrs Cracknell with a gift voucher from FOMSA for her retirement. We will really miss her and the help she has given FOMSA over 37 years of service, but wish her well for the next chapter of her life.

Easter Treasure Hunt

We were so delighted to be able to once again hold our Easter Treasure Hunt in the village woodland. We had 66 families enter. There were 10 Easter bonnets hidden in the woods and everyone had to guess who would normally wear them. There was also an anagram to solve and an 'eggstra' general knowledge quiz. We also had Easter refreshments on sale, a 'Guess the name of the bunny' stall and 'How many eggs are in the jar' stall. There were hard boiled eggs to decorate and some fantastic designs were created.

Our Winners

First Prize



Second Prize



Third Prize



'Eggstra' general knowledge quiz



85 eggs in the jar



The name of the bunny was Hutch



We would like to thank Debbie, Community Champion at Stowmarket Tesco's and Colchester Zoo for donating items that we used for prizes. We would also like to thank The Parish Council for giving us permission to use the woodland and the parents, family members and the FOMSA Committee that made the delicious refreshments. Finally, we would like to thank all the people who helped on the day with setting up and running the event. We raised £677.22 for the school and £55.81 for Ukraine from planting and selling sunflower seeds. It was so lovely to see the school and village community and beyond come together for a lovely morning.

This term we are hoping to organise the following events and activities:

Year 6 Leavers Books and Leavers Event

Some of you will be aware that every year FOMSA liaises with school to create and fund Leavers books for each of the Year 6 children as a gift as they move on to secondary school. We are pleased to say that these will again be made for the children. FOMSA will also fund food and drinks for the Year 6 leavers event. The school will organise this event. More details to follow nearer the time.

Break a Rule Day

Friday 27th May. We have asked the School Council for this terms theme. The children would like everyone to come as Kings, Queens, Princesses and Princes or dressed in red, white and blue to mark the Queens Jubilee. We will look forward to seeing what they all look like. This time we are asking for donations of items to use on our tombola stall for our Summer Fair. Please send in items that will be in date, and that are new things that people would like to win.

Frozen Fridays

On Friday's, after half term, we will be selling ice lollies and ice creams at the end of the school day. A treat to start the weekend as you walk home or enjoy it at the playing field. These treats will be available to buy from FOMSA members who will be in front of the school by the main hall doors. More information to follow.

Summer Fair

We are pleased to say that our Summer Fair is back!!! This will be held on **Saturday 2nd July from 12 to 4pm** on the school field. There will be a wide variety of stalls, the Scouts will be back with their hotdog and burger stall and we look forward to the return of the retro games and water fight areas. There will be children's races, a tug of war competition and much more! Children, from years 5 and 6 will also be running their own stalls. As you will already know this year the school has taken part in 'The Big Hoot' trail. This is a fundraiser for St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich. The school were lucky enough to sponsor one of the owls and children from the school have already created designs and finished the final owl. The owl will make its debut at the Suffolk Show and then be part of a trail around Ipswich which we can all see. The children need to raise a donation of £695 for Elizabeth Hospice for the owl, therefore, they will run their own stalls at the fair to begin to raise this money. FOMSA will also help the children with a donation from the fair. We hope you will support the fair to help our children help an important local charity.

We will also be asking for help to run our FOMSA stalls. If you can spare an hour to help us, we would be very grateful, with 6 members on our committee we will need help from parents and family members of the school community to help this event take place and be the success it has been in the past. More details to follow.

Summer Raffle

We are also arranging a big Summer Raffle which will be drawn at the fair. In a few weeks' time, tickets will be sent home. There is the opportunity for everyone to buy tickets for themselves as well as trying to sell some to family members, friends and beyond. We have £100 cash as the first prize along with many other vouchers and prizes that have kindly been donated to us by local venues and companies. More details about ticket information and prizes to follow in a letter.



Easy Fundraising

Do you shop online? Have you signed up to this? All you have to do is register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and when you're asked to choose your cause type in **Friends of Mendlesham School Association**. Then 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 straight 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**. Thank you to the 21 supporters that have already signed up for us. £301.89 has been raised from Easy fundraising since we started this.

Ink Cartridges

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

We wish you all a lovely summer.

Many thanks for your continued support. The FOMSA Committee.

Danni Fletcher, Alison Millin, Sarah Gray, Anna Dawson, Michelle Crisp and Sadie Hammond.