



Scotforth St Paul's C of E Primary & Nursery School

"Let faith be your shield"

Scotforth St Paul's Primary and Nursery School
Scotforth Road
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9th November, 2018

Dear Parents,

I am aware that there has been a lot of vigorous discussion over the last couple of days both on social media and in person about some forthcoming FOSSY events, and so thought it would be helpful to write.

Firstly I would like to thank everyone for their interest. If you have a child at our school, then you are automatically a member of FOSSY, because it is the PTA. How much, or little you choose to engage is entirely up to you to decide. We understand that some people are more able to juggle work/home/life commitments than others, and that whilst some people love being involved in group events, for others it is simply "not their thing". That is absolutely right and proper. However what is also irrefutable is that whatever FOSSY members do, is designed to benefit our school, and done from the very best of intentions. No FOSSY event is ever compulsory and we do not ever want any parent or child to feel under any pressure that they are.

FOSSY is there to raise money for school, but just as importantly, to be a vehicle for providing fun social events too. All the money raised directly benefits the children. Unfortunately the school budget is incredibly stretched (due to the funding cuts that so many schools are suffering) and so money raised by FOSSY is more important than ever. There is around £6500 in the FOSSY account at the moment, of which about £5500 would be available to spend (as it is necessary to keep a float available) and we could spend that several times over without even trying! But it wouldn't be on exciting things- simply items such as replacing very old worn carpets, painting shabby walls, replacing blown double glazing, fixing a leaky section of roof, replacing squeaky chairs, etc. etc. Instead we are juggling budgets and putting it towards items such as new chairs in the IT suite, a Christmas show for children, £100 per class for small consumable items and forthcoming projects, like making more of our garden space.

There is undoubtedly a lot going on just at the moment! The run up to Christmas is always busy, both at home and school, and we are sorry if, in our wanting to put on extra fun activities, we have caused stress for some parents. Please be assured that although there are lots of activities, they are all optional! Having spoken with some of the FOSSY committee, and in light of feedback from various parents some alterations to proposed events have been made, and arrangements for forthcoming events are now as follows:

Thursday 22nd November: Film Night – 6pm till 8:30pm for YR-Y6. £3 per child for refreshments. Payment on the door – no need to book ahead.

Friday 30th November: Christmas Market – 3:15pm. This is not our usual style Christmas fair. It is a pop-up market in the hall, including various stalls, a hamper raffle, refreshments, second-hand books, toys and uniform, and not to forget Year 6's Enterprise Week stall. There will be **no charge on entry**. Please note that Father Christmas will not be making an appearance at this event – but will be visiting the disco!

Friday 7th December: "Elfridges" – surprise shopping event for children. Elfridges bookings and payments are due by 30th November. Presents will be chosen and wrapped by the children as follows: YR-Y4 during the Friday afternoon (Celebration Assembly will take place at 9:10am to facilitate this); Y5 and Y6 immediately after school.





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Thursday 13th December: Christmas Disco – 6:15pm-7:30pm for KS1, 7:45pm-9pm. Please note a change in pricing - 1st child is £5.00 and any additional sibling is £4.00. Included in the price of the disco is: a drink, hotdog, visit from Father Christmas with a gift and an additional surprise! Payment for the school disco is due by 6th December.

All of the above events are entirely optional.

We have also been fortunate enough to have received a good amount of sponsorship from local businesses towards all the children being able to create a special decoration for our Christmas Tree. Because of this sponsorship, children will be able to take their bauble home at the end of term. If anyone would like to give a donation towards charity as they collect their bauble (St. John's Hospice and Piccadilly Gardens, both of whom have supported this venture) they are most welcome, but this is **not** necessary in order to take their bauble home. All money raised by the star design competition which has already been sent out, will be donated to school funds.

NB. On non-uniform Fridays, when we are asking for donations in return for wearing non-uniform, this is not compulsory. Children can choose to still come in uniform and bring a donation or not. Also, children whose families are struggling so much that they cannot afford to send anything into school are still very welcome to come in non-uniform, as we absolutely will not discriminate against them.

It is only by all working together and supporting each other that we can achieve the best for our school. We have a new and improved suggestions box in the foyer and would be really grateful for any feedback, both positive and points for development to do with FOSSY and school generally.

Thank you to everyone (parents and staff) who gives up their free time to volunteer at these events or in school generally. We couldn't do it without you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. A. Aylott

Head Teacher/NLE

