



FoOS Welcome Letter

We hope you have all had a great first half term and are all looking forward to this next term that'll be full of wonderful and exciting new experiences. I am writing on behalf of FoOS and we would like to take this opportunity to say hello and welcome old and new families, to Oaktree School and introduce ourselves.

FoOS is the school PTA, we are a group of parents who have previously had or still have a child at the school. Our aim is to support the children and school, and help provide a broader range of experiences and opportunities that some of our students may not normally have access to. Through fundraising efforts, we try to fund the extras that the school budget does not allow for, and purchase materials, equipment and organize activities, in order to make our children's learning and social experiences that little bit more fulfilling and exciting.

We run a monthly movie clubs where students can stay after school and watch a film with their friends, we hold monthly coffee mornings for family and friends to come in and meet each other for a catch up. This year, Eleni and her pathway group will be baking fresh pastries and serving us hot drinks. This is a great experience for the students and a lovely way for us to support the school in teaching our children new skills. We also hold termly family events like a Pizza & Bingo night, a Quiz and Curry Night, end of term school discos and school fetes. With funds raised last year, a couple of the things we purchased were playground equipment and a bird table and camera for the sensory garden.

The school has set up an events coordinators team this year and the students involved will be helping us plan and run events this year. The students all look forward to these extra events and love telling us what they would like us to do next. We are however a very small team and in order for us to continue running activities and events, we are reaching out to all parents and carers who might like to get involved and support us. We do not expect anyone to commit to anything too much, you may just want to be someone who can attend our meetings and contribute ideas, be someone who is a great community fundraiser and gather donations for



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our raffles, have a business or service that we might be able to use or benefit from, help at events to ensure we have enough adult support to run events, or someone who can turn up with family and friends at our events and support us by just participating.

In order to help raise extra funds for the school, we are set up on easyfundraising. It is an online app that is very easy to download and set up. Once downloaded, search for Friends of Oaktree School and just click on the retailer you want to buy from and shop as normal. The retailer then pays a commission and a donation is made to the school. Outside of our events, you can also donate directly to FoOS if you like, and all money donated and raised is always put back into the school, where we endeavor to spend the funds in ways that will benefit all students.

Working with the school, we have this year set up a hardship fund where with the schools discretion, we will be able to agree grants to go towards assisting families who find themselves in extremely difficult circumstances. The school will apply directly to FoOS on behalf of the prospective families. If you would like to make a donation to this, then please let us know and we will advise you on how to do that. This is completely a separate fund to anything raised via FoOS for the students and school. No money will be added to this project unless specifically specified by the person giving the donation.

If you are interested in joining FoOS, please contact me or leave your details with the school and I will get in touch with you. By getting involved, you will have the opportunity to meet other parents, have extra opportunities to interact with staff and students and see first hand the excitement and joy they get from sitting with friends to eat popcorn and watch a film together. Whatever level of participation you select, your help will help strengthen our team.