

FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL

Quarterly Newsletter of the Friends of Balcombe School (PTA)

UPCOMING EVENTS & KEY DATES

Frozen Friday
Ice-cream Sale

FRIDAY 21ST JULY



Fun and Games at the
Summer Fair

As we wrap up the school year, we wanted to share our success and also our gratitude for all your support this Summer.

Since our last newsletter we've hosted eight separate fundraising events, starting with the Balcombe Bull Run. You baked and bought an amazing amount of cake and we left with a wonderful warm community spirit.

This was followed in quick succession by a Six Nations Screening, well attended by a bunch of glitter clad dads! We wrapped up the Cake Challenges which again you supported so well we made more than £1,100 during these alone. You got competitive for Crazy Hair Day before June chaos started. The Summer Fair, Frozen Friday, the Reading Challenge and new parents welcome drinks all in one month! In July we served some thirsty parents pre-drinks before the Junior production and we are planning one last Frozen Friday today!

We're still totalling up our profits for the year and will be sharing a detailed breakdown of how we raised funds and invested this year however, including some very generous donations from other village charities, we raised c£23,000 in the year, with pre-donation investable profits still thought to exceed prior year.

We've laid amazing foundations over the last two years and looking ahead, have created additional smaller roles within the committee. We'll be holding the annual general meeting in September so if you can volunteer any time at all, join us for a drink. We use the session to reflect on the last year, discuss ideas on how we could raise even more funds and vote on how we should spend our investable profit. Thanks again for all of your support. Have a wonderful Summer!

Alecia, Alex & Mel

FRIENDS OF BALCOMBE SCHOOL

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“Leaders ensure that the school makes good use of offers of support and opportunities from the local community. These experiences ensure that visitors to the school and trips out enhance the learning for the pupils.”

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Ofsted Report 2023

Fundraising Goal 2022/23



£23,000 of £12,000



Snuggling into the Reading Challenge

Areas we've invested in this school year...



At the start of the school year, we prioritised areas to invest in and then asked for your votes in a parent survey.

We're proud to have supported the following areas this year:

- Music curriculum improvements by investing in music equipment
- Extended Nature Ninjas by funding additional sessions for each class
- Additional reading resources
- Classroom resources
- Animal Encounter
- Virtual Reality Experience

The following areas are still a priority and we'll be looking to support these in the upcoming months.

- Computing equipment - for teaching and learning
- Outdoor learning area in Coombe/Forest
- Development of outdoor breakout/sensory
- Large outdoor play equipment/trim trail

Have you followed us on Social Media?

Simply search for 'friends of balcombe school' to find us and be kept up to date with exciting village events!

New FoBS roles to fill:

Would you like to become a member of FoBS?

We have the following roles available in the new school year:

Treasurer

Fundraising Co-ordinator

Events Co-ordinator/s

New Class Reps

Simply drop us an email at pta.balcombe@gmail.com

Textile recycling

If you haven't already spotted it, we've installed a textile bank outside school by the bins. This is available and encouraged to be used responsibly by the whole community. For every kilo collected Friends of Balcombe School will make 40p so it's a win win!

We carefully selected Astra Recycling as they are a family run business, registered with the Textile Recycling Association and have a Certificate of excellence in recognition of their dedication to the ethical handling of used textiles and minimising waste.

The textiles are collected every 2 weeks and are either sent to Eastern Europe to be used again or converted into insulation materials and industrial cleaning wipes, so less than 1% of what is collected ends up in the ground.

The textile bin will accept clothes, shoes, bed linen, accessories and soft toys however will NOT accept duvets, cushions, off cuts, carpets or curtains. If the bin is full please refrain from leaving bags next to it and instead pop back in a couple of weeks.

Please support us by making use of it!

Pre-loved Uniform

In preparation for next year at school (yes, already!) we have a wide range of pre-loved school uniform cleaned and available for collection in the village.

We just ask that you donate to FoBS what the item is worth to you.

We have items with the school logo, as well as PE kit, trousers, dresses and more. To find out more email us at FoBSuniform@gmail.com and we can let you know about browsing, collection and donation arrangements.



The textile bin is now available to be used.



Our amazing Uniform Managers

How can you support FoBS?

With new parents soon to be joining us, we wanted to cover some ways in which you can support FoBS.

Come along to events

Coming along to events is probably the easiest way in which you can support us. We may be bias but we think they are always really fun and it's a lovely way to get to know other members of FoBS and fellow parents.

Volunteer

Volunteers are needed for all events. Class Reps will always ask for volunteers when planning an event, be it for help with organisation or adding your name to the event rota. We are also eager to tap into your expertise, experiences and skills; any way in which you can help! Share any ideas you or your children may have regarding future fundraising events and initiatives. We would love to hear from you.

Sponsorship

We are always seeking sponsors to support our fundraising. We have a Just Giving page as an alternative way to raise money to help our children. Our registered charity name is Balcombe C E School PTA.

MatchFunding

There are many employers that recognise the contributions their employees make to charities by "match funding" the amounts they raise for charity. This could mean matching the amount raised at an event, or your class stall, or providing a one-off or regular donation. It's a quick and easy way to raise more money for our school.



Crazy Hair Day