

Friends of St Mary's Primary School

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For those who are new to the St Mary's family, welcome!

Friends of St Mary's (FoSM) is the group of parents which other schools might call the PTA or Parent Association. Parents have told us that they would like more information on what our fundraising will go towards at school. Our main purpose is to raise funds for the school to pay for the many subscriptions to learning tools which aid the teachers, for example, MyMaths, PurpleMash, TimesTableRockStars and others as well as to raise funds for specific projects.

Previous projects include our lovely sensory garden which is used for teaching and after school activities. In 2024 as well as subscriptions, with your support FosM was able to help fund an outdoor classroom and storage shed for our Forest School area. This will be an amazing resource which will be used almost daily, year-round. Please see separate page for details of our annual commitments for school.

Apart from this, FoSM is a way of bringing our school community together. If you are a new parent at St Marys, please don't worry about being hounded to join a committee, (but you are very welcome to join the committee!) or coming to the regular meetings you can simply support the events we organise. We would love to have help from any of you, any time, of course, but we won't be asking you to commit to fixed roles or time (unless you want to!).

If you would like to help out financially you are welcome to donate into the FoSM account any time, or you could attend some events and help us fundraise that way. If you felt like dipping your toe into giving some time, you could start with, say, serving coffee and mince pies with other FoSM helpers at one of the Christmas events. Or buying some ingredients for an event, or having a stall with your child at the Christmas fair. Anything you would like to contribute would be very welcome. One of our helpers said the other day that she's been so glad to be involved but really didn't know anything about it when she joined the school. Now she is keen to help other new parents who may be interested.

We hope to see you at our events and in the playground. Please make yourselves known to us if you'd like to get involved in any small way or simply to say hi!

What are our main fundraisers?

Hoodies

By purchasing one of the school PE hoodies this contributes towards the fundraising FosM does and helps make more money for school to invest in our children's education. So buy your children a hoodie – adult sizes available too if you fancy being part of the team!

FoSM Lottery

For an annual entry of £10 you will be entered into the lottery for 3 prize draws at the end of each term (Dec, Mar/April and July) First prize is £50 with a minimum of 2 further prizes. The more entrants the more prizes! Entry money is split between prize funds and money for FosM. You can buy as many entries as you would like. Surely better odds than Camelot will give you!

FoSM Speed Quiz

The quiz is an annual event, run by Mr Moss' brother Nick, and is always great fun. No need to be able to win Mastermind but sometimes the quickest finger first wins the prize. More information will be shared once the event is scheduled.

Christmas market

This is ran after school in the hall (COVID permitting!) and the playground. Think twinkly lights and typical fayre style games. Again more information will be shared once the event is scheduled but get thinking if you would like to run a stall. You can either pay for a pitch and keep profits or give what you raise from a game to FoSM. If you run a small business and would like to donate a raffle prize, please get in touch – they are always welcome.

Non Uniform Days

4 times a year a non-uniform day at October half term, February half term, Easter and May half term. We suggest a donation of £2 per child for each of these days. If you prefer to pay for the whole year, please donate straight into the FoSM account with a reference: Child(ren)'s name 'All year non-uniform'.

St Crux

What is St Crux! For those of you who don't know St Crux is an indoor and outdoor space which can be hired in York City Centre. This provides us an opportunity to run a café at the bottom of the Shambles and to sell bric-a-brac. This is always a great fundraiser for the school but does need your help. Please contact the committee if you can contribute your time (most valuable!) your baking skills or would just like to donate items for the café such as loaves of bread, tuna, washing up liquid etc– all donations gratefully received!

Refreshments

You will get the opportunity to meet many members of the team at various school events. You will find us at Christmas Plays, Parents evenings, sports days – always happy to serve you

with a hot drink and a biscuit in return for a small donation!

What does FoSM support?

FoSM provides the financial support for many items at school which simply wouldn't be available without your support. There are a number of electronic subscriptions that our children have access to.

English

Twinkle subscription for Key stages 1 & 2 – this is an educational resource website which offers hundreds of thousands of resources for teachers.

Grammar and Spelling Bug – this is an online programme that helps bring spelling, grammar and punctuation to life. It has hundreds of practice games for students and flexible teaching and assessment guidance that fits around existing literacy lessons.

Phonics E-Book – matched to the curriculum these books ensure that children read using the correct phonics that are taught in school

Green & Tempest Letter join – a leading online handwriting scheme. This helps teachers to teach cursive handwriting combining interactive animations with touch screen activities.

Maths

TT Rockstars – a maths programme that helps children learn their times tables

General

- Resource Supplements to each class and OOSC. We provide a sum of money to each class to buy extra resources that they would like to use to enhance the children's learning.
- Each year we pay for the new starters in reception to visit Crazy Tykes to aid their settling into school and forming friendships.
- Each year we pay for the Year 6 to have a leavers trip. A fun way to end their time at St Marys.

Each year FoSm pays out in excess of £5,000 for subscriptions that our children have the benefit of using. Without your kind support of our fundraising activities the children simply wouldn't have these additional teaching aids which they so enjoy using.

Thank you again for all your support for FoSM which in turn supports the school to enhance the support for the children. We really are one giant team!