

FRIENDS OF HOYLANDSWAINE SCHOOL

End of Year Report 2010/2011

We are again coming to the end of another busy and successful year for FOHS in which we have organised many social and fundraising events.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us with their time and effort. We are aware we could not carry out many of the events without the support of parents. We also thank you for your financial support which obviously makes the events a success.

We have raised money in a variety of ways and with different events such as Firefighters clothes sales, bun sales, a fantastic Christmas raffle together with the imminent Barn Dance - which is a sell out! We also receive ongoing contributions from the Yellow Moon organisation and Easy Fundraising.com.

One of the ways in which we spent the money this year was to pay for the local poet Ian McMillan to come in to the school to talk to and work with the children, which provided the classes with a different and interesting outlook on poetry.

This year we arranged a Halloween disco for the children which was well attended, with all sorts of ghoulish activities on offer. As usual the children enjoyed the successful Christmas Discos. We thank Mr Cutts for again providing this year's music and his superb DJ-ing.

Also, for Christmas, each child designed their own Christmas card which was organised by FOHS and again proved very popular with children and parents alike.

The second very lively Beetle Drive was held in September as a welcome evening for the new starters and their families. Again, we could not have made more noise if we tried, shaking die, drawing furiously and eating delicious pie and peas!

We are paying £417 for the annual subscription to the Athletics programme which proved popular when parents were directly asked if they would like this service to continue. This year we have also arranged access to a spelling program, details of which I am sure will follow in the New Year. It is something the teachers believe is of great benefit for the children to have available in school and at home so let's continue to use it.

This year as in previous years we have organised activities within the school and FOHS, together with some valuable helpers, have been in to school to help the children. The Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts were again successful. This year we helped the children design tea-light holders and key rings. This is an activity which the children seem to greatly enjoy and it is lovely to see them take so much pride in the gifts we encourage them to make. Both of these were funded by FOHS and I'm sure you'll agree were a great present for mums and dads.

Due to the children being so great at some of the inter-school sports events they have entered this year we have been asked to provide trophies for each successful team. Awarding the teams with a trophy is something Mr Woodhead is keen to do and therefore something we are proud to fund. This success has also led us to pay for the school to have a set of t-shirts to wear at these events. It was brought to our attention that other schools our children compete against have matching t-shirts and it is now nice to know our children look smart when they are representing the school.

In February, for the new starters event, we chose to organise an adult's quiz, we thought it would be quieter than the beetle drive, however we found competitive adults can be very noisy as well! This was a great success and was hugely helped by the support of Hoylandswaine sports and social club who very kindly let us host the event there and helped us sell tickets.

FOHS have again made a big effort to keep the school looking tidy and inviting to visitors, the children and parents. Thank you to those people who have helped us with the gardening.

The Royal Wedding obviously could not go uncelebrated in Hoylandswaine and FOHS played their part in helping to organise the party fit for royalty which made it a day to remember for our children. It could not have gone ahead without people putting a lot of time and effort in.

Most recently the children have enjoyed a whole day out of lessons building dens. This is the sort of thing that the FOHS committee feel is hugely important for us to fund as it gives all the children a chance to experience different and interesting activities that enrich their school life.

At Sports Day this year we served delicious Cream Teas along with the traditional bun sale and we have just enjoyed the Robin Hood Adventure afternoon. This event was aimed at giving the children some after school summer fun and finished with a summer social occasion for parents. Unfortunately the parents' part of the afternoon had to be cancelled due to the great British weather however we didn't let the weather spoil the children's fun. The afternoon was a success, children stayed after school and enjoyed taking part in a play about Robin Hood, with children playing roles, dressing up and whooping and hollering at the baddies. They also had great fun learning some medieval dancing, having a go at archery and learning jester skills. It was lovely to see the children being so well behaved and getting the most they could out of this different activity that was provided for them.

Year on year we provide facilities and extras for the children and the school and this year has been no exception. We fund the school bags for every new starter, prizes for pancakes day races, Easter eggs, and Christmas presents for each and every child as well as the Christmas crackers for the Christmas lunch. We fund presents for the year 6 leavers which, in particular, we feel, is an extremely important part of our role as it is the children who make the school what it is and we are proud to be able to play our part in saying "farewell" to them.

As you are aware, as we have been keeping you up to date through the newsletter as much as possible, FOHS are paying to rejuvenate the log area. We, together with Mr Woodhead, have had various meetings with approved suppliers and installers and have now finalised the details. The new equipment will be being built around the existing fort, which the children enjoy so much, using all of the extra available space to provide exciting playtime equipment. We are pleased to say that this work will be carried out over the summer holidays, so fingers-crossed it will be ready for our return in September. Without the fundraising we have arranged, and the parents who have been involved over the last couple of years, the ability to provide this equipment would not be possible.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to let parents know that there are a few people in the current committee that have been in a role for many years and therefore feel they would like to step down. The roles that will become available in October, when the AGM is held, are Chairman, Vice secretary, Treasurer and Vice-treasurer. This is a great opportunity for parents to become involved with FOHS which is an important part of their children's school life. Being a part of FOHS is a rewarding opportunity, a chance to make some good friends and feel part of a team and is also constantly in need of new and fresh ideas. So please give some thought over the holidays as to whether you would like to volunteer for these roles or just be a general part of the committee.

Again, FOHS would like to thank everyone who has helped us to provide so much for the school and the children this year. Looking towards the coming academic year we are always looking for parents to join the committee, come along to the meetings or just help out wherever possible. As you can see above, the events we organise and the funds we make available for purchases throughout the year are an important part of the running of the school. So please feel free to come along to the meetings and play a part in enriching our children's school life.

Sarah Brain
Chairman