

Friends of Castlethorpe School
Chairperson's report 2009

Welcome to everyone and thank you for coming out this evening.

Another year has passed already and with great success in terms of fund raising, and hopefully on the whole a pleasurable experience, although pretty hard work at times.

This year has continued to be successful and we are very fortunate to be able to support our school, and provide the funds for trips, visits & extra equipment that otherwise would not be available, a facility that a lot of schools do not have.

This year FOCS has organized the Spooky Disco & Christmas party, providing Santa with such an abundance of presents he needed 2 sacks!!!

We have funded trips to the Milton Keynes Museum, and then to the wildlife centre, both of which were very successful despite the weather, also to the Panto for Cinderella when as an addition, Natalie Westwood and Faye Fricker used the money they raised from their run to treat the children to ice - creams....

FOCS also have funded the development of the library which looks lovely and is very popular with the children, and we are still continuing to fund the purchase of more books to stock the shelves.

The activities over the year included the plant sale, 2 very successful bag 2 school collections which exceeded our previous amounts, a sponsored event in conjunction with Children with Leukaemia, the school fete, which was a huge success with a massive profit of over £2000 which despite the

showers was brilliant, the Christmas cards and the raffle, a further success even in this current climate.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work, organisation and support we receive from friends in the community, the FOCS committee and parents.

Also with support of the school staff and to Julie Baldwin our Headmistress.

We have already received a wish list from the school which we will discuss later in the meeting.

It is important to the school that we maintain our team of willing volunteers, and look forward to seeing more parents becoming involved in any way that they can, in no matter how large or small a way.

During the year again we have seen changes within the committee members. Zoe Clayton stepped down as secretary in the summer due to increasing personal commitments; we would like to thank Zoe for her hard work especially with the fete planning and organisation. Due to an inability to refill the post as secretary, Sam King very kindly offered to step in temporarily as vice chair while Anja Schwark has swapped to the role of secretary.

As most of you will know by now me, Jen Robson, and Sam King will be standing down officially at this meeting, as we are sadly moving onwards in September, although we will be involved I am sure until the end.

This obviously leaves the 3 vacancies on the committee, which must be filled in order for FOCS to benefit our children. We will be discussing this later in the meeting.

Sam has also stepped down from organising the 100 Club and is in the throws of handing over to Jackie Lee who has very kindly

offered to take it on. Thank you very much for all your hard work with this over the years.

We would also like to thank those who work very hard behind the scenes on behalf of FOCS running the 100 club (Sam King), Ordering and sorting out the uniforms (Sara Young), Plant sale (Jayne D'Silva and Michele Green), Christmas cards (Lianne Flach, & Michele Green and Jayne D'Silva), Painting the library (Steve Clayton & Colin King), lastly to those who worked really hard to decorate the hall and organise the Spookey Party, and all the decorations and party helpers for Christmas.

Finally I would like to again thank everyone who has helped us throughout the year. I hope that we can encourage as many parents to get involved as possible to give the school the extras that make it special.