

An Introduction to The Friends of Botley School (FOBS)



Welcome!

This information has been put together by FOBS especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved from the start! It was great to meet some of you at Teas and Tissues on Monday and we hope your children are settling well into their new reception classes.

What is FOBS?

FOBS is the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of Botley Primary School and includes all the parents and staff at the school, as well as anyone in the community who wishes to help. All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available. All families are automatically members of FOBS when their child joins our school.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. FOBS exists to provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It's fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers.

What do FOBS do?

FOBS is a registered charity whose aim is to raise funds for the school by organising and running events for pupils and parents alike. Monies raised through these events are then used to purchase and fund items in order to benefit all year groups at the school in one way or another.

We organise regular events including 3 Discos a year, Fayres, Colour raffle, Colour Run, Christmas Present Sales, Christmas Grotto, Christmas raffle, Christmas cards, Quiz Nights, Cake Sales, ice cream sales, sports day refreshments, paint and sip nights and lots of other fun events. In addition, we also raise funds from the support and advertising of local companies, Matched Funding, Grants, Bag2School Collections, Donations and suchlike.

How much does FOBS raise and what happens to it?

In the Academic Year Sept 2023- August 2024 we raised £19k through our organised events, advertising, donations, grants and matched funding. All the money raised goes back into the school and is allocated in response to requests by the various school departments after careful consideration by the Committee.

Some costs we commit to every year include Educational Resources , Library Books, IT, SEN and PE Equipment, SATS breakfast and year 6 leavers items including trip to Portsmouth cathedral leavers service. We also subsidise the School Trips and Theme Visitors of £5000 a year. We also agreed for 2024-2025 academic year to provide £5000 for DT and Art materials to be reviewed. We also support Calm Club every year. Other costs are on a one-off or special request basis such as Team Uniforms, Music Resources, Playground Equipment, sound system, stage lighting etc. We also support the school gardens project called Botley Sow to Grow, we fund £100 every half term £600 over the year. The gardens project have been funded by several grant applications. Any money left in the bank at the end of the academic year is carried forward to the following year's coffers.

In addition to this, over the past couple of years we have funded large projects including the ORB (Outdoor Recreation Building). The ORB enables the teachers to take the children outside more regularly and stay out for longer as the classroom is heated and air conditioned. We have funded three sets of large outside play equipment, key stage 1 play frame, key stage 2 play frame and the reception playground play trail. We have funded basketball hoop on the playground.

Since January 2025 this year we have funded a new full set of iPads in a lockable charging cabinet. We funded 6 new outside picnic benches. In the April 2025 meeting we agreed to fund a new sensory play trail, this is being put together in stages and you will see parts of this on the school field already and is really going to benefit the children. We also agreed to fund paint for a mural on the swimming pool wall which Mrs Westlake and the school council and some parents helped plan this, and it looks incredible. We had some donations of paint from parent Helen Meigh via B&Q business, FOBS obtained some paint for free from Brewers in Chandlers Ford and paid for the rest of the materials needed. At our meeting on the 16th July we agreed to fund new class set of 18 bee bots (coding), money towards new laptops and some PE equipment, 4 goals, a high jump and two speed bounce sets. September 2025 we are looking at funding a new book vending machine, as a reward and to support reading targets and extra money to go in the sensory activity trail.

Can You Help FOBS?

There are many ways in which parents can help us and contrary to popular belief, you do not need to sign up to the 'committee' to help. The committee positions are agreed at the AGM and new faces are always welcome, however what we need is a list of helpers we can count on to help at events.

If you can spare the odd hour to help with planning and running events, preparing hot dogs at a disco, helping with Christmas present sales, selling refreshments, or running a stall at a fayre - that would be fantastic. Are you a Graphic Designer, a keen gardener, a Photographer, a Face Painter or do you love Arts & Crafts? Could you help with setting up and promoting an event, wash any nearly new uniform, sell raffle tickets or anything else we might find helpful? Please don't think working or having smaller children at home means you can't help. You really can. Some of our most active parents work full time, or

have other commitments. It really is a case of 'the more, the merrier' as having a large number of volunteers means we can share the load.

Volunteering with FOBS is fun, and I feel we are quite a sociable bunch! Being part of FOBS is a great way to meet other parents and become more involved with your child's school life. Personally, I have made some great friends through FOBS, possibly some parents I'd never have spoken to in the playground, so it's not all about running the events, but the social side of it too.

We also require donations for events, support from local businesses, and companies who can help with match funding and grants. If this is something that would interest you, even slightly, then please speak to myself or any of the committee about how you can help. We are very lucky and grateful to have support of lots of our local businesses. Jackson Bailey our local estate agent in Botley Mills has also sponsored lots of our events annually.

Dates For Your Diary

FOBS is a very active PTA and we have events running throughout the school year. More event details can be found on the FOBS Website and Facebook page (details below).

Friday 12th September 3.10pm Second Hand Uniform Sale at FOBS shed

Tuesday 16th September - FOBS AGM and FOBS Committee Meeting

Monday 29th September 3.10pm Second Hand Uniform Sale at FOBS shed

Thursday 2nd October Bags to School Collection at drop off (including non-uniform day)

Thursday 20th November Fireworks night

Where Can I Find More Information?

FOBS website <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofbotleyschool/>

FOBS Facebook page www.facebook.com/FOBSHampshire

Both the website and Facebook page give details about our fundraising and any forthcoming events. In addition to this, we send out regular newsletters and posters detailing events. Check out the FOBS Noticeboard at the entrance to the School Playground.

You can also email me directly at chairman@botleyfobs.co.uk

All new parents are welcome to the first FOBS Meeting of the year, the AGM, to give you an idea of who we are and what we do. There is no commitment made by coming along and it would be a good way of finding out more.

Our core committee currently is a chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary and we have non elected roles of grants, assistant treasurer and second hand uniform co-ordinator. We hold Committee meetings approximately once every half term and everyone is welcome to come along should you wish to get involved, or even just to find out more!

Carys Gibson Dickinson - September 2025

Chairman - Friends of Botley School (FOBS)