

Great Bardfield School
Friends of Bardfield School

13th December 2016

Dear All



Happy Christmas From FOBS

We have been very busy in the lead up to Christmas. Through all of us working together to raise funds, your children have gone to the Panto, enjoyed Christmas Crafts, had the opportunity to meet Father Christmas and buy all their loved ones Christmas presents at The Shop Till You Drop Event.

I must say how upset and flabbergasted I was to hear there had been complaints and murmurings about some of our events and how we run them. Everything we do is for the Children, for their enjoyment and to add to the curriculum they learn at school.

Not all our events are profit making – for instance – Shop Till You Drop... This event runs at a loss. We spent over £1000 on goodies to be sold this year – this took myself and another FOBS member a day and lots of carrier bags to do. All of these items were £1 or over. We provided wrapping paper, cello tape, a café offering free biscuits and squash for every child to complete their shopping experience. As we now find that we are unable to locate goodies to buy under a £1 we decided to have a sale table of all the left over goodies from previous years. These were sold from as little as 10p! Next year we will once again have all new items for sale for £1 and all the left over from this year on a sale table. There is something for everyone.

This event is one of my personal favourites of the year – my children absolutely loved thinking about and choosing a present for their loved ones, wrapping them then bringing them home to put under the tree. On Christmas morning, they were always the first presents to be brought out for opening as they were so excited for us to see what they have chosen and bought for us. This year's event ran at a loss of £262 – a small cost to see the enjoyment and smiles on every child's face as they so considerately bought your Christmas presents. I hope, when you open your present on Christmas morning, that you will appreciate the gift and the thought that went into its purchase by your children.

If you have any comments to make about FOBS, events we organise or how we run them, please direct them to me, Sally Beanland, Chair of FOBS. FOBS is a separate entity to the school. We work with the teachers but under our own banner. We hope to work with Mrs Kerrell on everything but ultimately, we choose what we organise and run. Therefore, if you have any comments, negative or positive, please direct them to me.

Our next FOBS meeting will be held at School on Wednesday 11th January at 7.30pm. I would like to personally invite anyone who would like to say anything about any of the events we organise, good or bad. We are a very small team of volunteers and any feedback is appreciated. Any help is even more appreciated. Our next main event is The Summer Fete. This is our biggest money making event and includes the whole village – if you would like to help in any way please let me know.

Once again – I wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Please do not hesitate to call me on 07977 466367 or email me at sallybeanland@hotmail.co.uk

Thanks

Sally x