

FRIENDS OF BARDFIELD SCHOOL (FOBS)

Please read till the end.

WHAT IS FOBS?

FOBS is replacing the name of PTA. It is a group of parents, teachers, grandparents, ex-pupils, local families – anyone who would like to help raise funds for our village primary school. Anyone linked with the school or village can be involved with FOBS in whatever capacity they can. You could come to committee meetings, manage an event, spend an hour on a stall at the fete, sell raffle tickets – you may be creative and can design posters, make a cake, serve cups of tea - there is so much to do and the more volunteers the merrier.

My name is Sally Beanland and I have taken on the role of FOBS Chairperson. My twin boys Billy and Jake are in year 6. My husband Richard, his brother and sister went to the school when they were children. His Sister Janet went on to teach at Bardfield School when she qualified as a teacher. Our family has owned and run a farming business in the village since 1969. We are very proud of our village school and love the fact that two generations of Beanland's have attended and hope that the school will still be around for the next generations.

WHAT DOES FOBS DO?

FOBS raises funds for the school. Simple!! These are funds that are used by Mrs Kerrell for important or essential items needed by the school that the government do not fund.

This year's funds are being raised for the following:-

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| 1. Repair of swimming pool | £2,000 |
| 2. 2016 Pantomime Trip | £1,500 |
| 3. Wildlife Area | £1,000 |

As you can see, without our fundraising this year, the school will not have the use of the pool next year, the kids won't go to see the pantomime nor will there be a lovely wildlife area for our children to explore.

The funds raised always benefit our children. Without it, our children miss out.

We will be keeping a tally of funds raised on future newsletters so everyone can see how much money so far has been raised and how much more we need to go.

EVENTS

Throughout the year FOBS organises events to raise funds. Since September there has been a Race Night, Halloween Disco and the Cauliflower Christmas Cards. We have a few dates in the diary going forward but are always looking for new ideas to keep the coffers rolling.

Coming up before Christmas we have:-

1. Fireworks Display – Saturday 7th November at The Playingfield, Gt Bardfield. The gates open at 5.30pm. There is a bar, tea and coffee, BBQ, sweets – a huge bonfire with a guy and a spectacular firework display. Tickets can be pre-purchased from the Co-op or on the gate on the night.
2. Shop Till You Drop, 14th December at The School Hall – This is a wonderful event where tables are set up in the school hall full of items for the children to purchase for their loved ones as Christmas presents. Members of FOBS will have previously bought and prepared hundreds of goodies which are for sale for £1 and under. The children create a shopping list of who they would like to buy for and then, class room at a time, they enter the shopping bazaar. Year 6 children help the younger children with their money. Once they have bought all their presents they go to a wrapping table and wrap and label them before taking them home to put under their Christmas Tree.

It is an unforgettable and magical afternoon and the children love the act of thinking about and purchasing their family members and pets a present. I know my boys are very proud of their gifts and cannot wait for us to open them on Christmas day.

This event is taking place on Monday 14th December after lunch. Volunteers for shop keepers are needed as too are volunteers to help prepare the gifts ready for sale. (This is normally done at someone's house with a bottle or two of wine!) This event is run for the children and not as fund raiser.

If you would like to be involved in any way please contact me, Sally on either sallybeanland@hotmail.co.uk or 07977 466367.

3. Christmas Pudding Competition – we are arranging a competition for the children to design a label for a Christmas Pudding. The winning label will then be produced and put on puddings that will be for sale from the school.

Some parents of older children may wonder why I haven't mentioned the 'Festive Friday' Event. Unfortunately, the small group of current FOBS members have run out of time to organise this event so it was decided to ensure the Shop Till You Drop event is a success we would have to forgo Festive Friday. I am hoping that next year we will have a new team of enthusiastic volunteers who can take this event and create the wonderful Christmassy atmosphere that we will miss this year.

In the new year we have already started thinking about an Easter Egg Hunt, another Race Night, A Pamper Day and of course the School Summer Fete which this year we are hoping to include a dog show! Planning is in the very early stages and for these events to happen we need volunteers to help organise and run.

FOBS volunteer numbers are very low at the moment and this is causing a problem. If we cannot encourage new volunteers, events will not be able to take place. This would be a real shame for two reasons:-

1. We will not be able to reach our targets to ensure Mrs Kerrell has the funds she needs.
2. Our children will miss out on the fun and laughter these events bring.

As the new Chairperson I am willing you as parents of children at the school to either come along to our next meeting being held on Tuesday 1st December, 7pm in the staff room or contact me to discuss how you are able to help. I am often in the front playground at pick up time (often wearing pink and smelling of horses), my email is sallybeanland@hotmail.co.uk and my mobile is 07977 466367.

I personally would like to see a number of volunteers taking an active role on the FOBS committee to help create a number of successful events throughout the year with a list of people who are happy to be involved and help to organise and run these events. I would like to see volunteers working together sharing experience and ideas. We have parents of older children who have been on the PTA who have a wealth of experience, lists of contacts, know the best shops to go to, where to ask for raffle prizes etc. We also have lots of new parents with younger children who can bring their enthusiasm, ideas and experiences forward. Together we can build a team who can raise the funds for the school so our children have the best possible experience of being at school, the best memories to take into senior school and beyond.

FOBS meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month, currently in the staff room at school and start at 7pm. I propose that after the meetings we all pop to the pub for a drink and a social.

THIS IS OUR SCHOOL, OUR CHILDREN, LETS MAKE MEMORIES

Please, please do not hesitate to contact me for a chat

Thanks and regards

Sally x