

Spring is officially here and with Easter around the corner, FODS have been a hive of activity...

Last Friday afternoon the playground was full of egg-cited children participating in the **FODS Easter Egg Hunt**. This year KS1 children had a separate route from KS2 with the aim of easing congestion both outside in the playground and inside the school hall.

This new approach led all the children on an adventure to find clues scattered around the school grounds and solve the puzzle. Once cracked, the children were rewarded with an Easter egg, extra chocolate goodies, and a chance to meet and have a photo with our very own Easter bunny! Big thanks to everyone involved in the organisation and running of this egg-cellent event!



Lots of the children tapped into their artistic side creating wonderful designs for Mothering Sunday cards and gifts. **Thanks to everyone who supported this FODS initiative, we raised a fantastic £306** and we hope that parents and families enjoyed receiving their personal designs created by their children.



Back In February music and dancing filled the school hall at the *Holy Trinity Loves Disco* night.

'Bouncy Ben' did a fantastic job of entertaining all the children across two sessions splitting the younger children from the older. The children loved the entertainment and it appeared the teachers did too as let's just say FODS may have video evidence of Miss Travis and Miss Taylor with some of the other teachers doing the conga around the school hall!

Huge thanks to Bouncy Ben, all the teachers and volunteers who helped out to give the children a fantastic time.



Chocolate was also on the agenda for World Book Day this year as FODS ran a new initiative to sell Wonka chocolate bars. **We saw fantastic participation, selling 270 bars!** Children eagerly unwrapped their chocolate, hoping to find a golden ticket inside. Across the classes, ten lucky golden ticket holders won £10 book vouchers, courtesy of FODS.





And whilst it seems like a distant memory (and no one wants to hear the word 'Christmas' at this time of year), we can't let the Christmas Fair pass by. Once again it was a great success with the hall jam-packed with lots of support from families and school **raising nearly £800.00.**

There was even a visit from Father Christmas who had just enough time to pop into Holy Trinity from the North Pole and chat to the children who had booked to see him in his grotto. FODS hope that he'll be able to spare the time to fly down from the North Pole once again this year.



Congratulations went to Year 6 who won the Class Enterprise with their beautiful felt Christmas decorations that instantly sold out, winning the amount they raised from their stall which was an amazing **£201.40 to spend in their class.**

The success of these events and initiatives wouldn't be possible without the support of parents, carers, families, and school staff. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to our events. Through your support, we've raised enough funds to enrich the lives of all our children in various ways, including:



To spend on what they need. Items included wet playtime toys and games, books, cushions, fairy lights and lamps for reading corners, storage and teacher chairs.



£1672.95 on extending the Little Wandle Reading scheme.



£550 for pre school's outside play drain pipes (money raised from the FODS ticket sales of the Santa Dash with 50% donation from Saddleworth Round Table).



We have committed a further £3000 towards new playground equipment and benches as well as £150 to a Visualiser and £200 to the Year 6 leavers hoodies and party.

FODS meet on a monthly basis to discuss how to best spend funds and plan some great events but we need you to make them happen!

Our next meeting is on **17th April, 8pm at The Swan, Dobcross**, we'd love to see you there. There are however, numerous ways you can contribute to supporting FODS. If you're interested in winning the first prize of £35, consider signing up for our school lottery. Simply message your FODS class rep for more information. Prizes are drawn every month, so don't miss out on your chance to win!

Another fantastic way to support FODS is by signing up for Easy Funding. The best part is it won't cost you anything extra on your online shopping. Easy Funding has partnered with over 7000 brands, including Tesco, O2, Sky, and John Lewis.

When you shop online with these brands, they'll donate a portion of your spending to the cause of your choice. Simply select Friends of Dobcross School, and every time you shop with a partner brand, they'll make a donation. Plus, if you're planning a holiday soon, some companies like Tui are Easy Funding partners so by signing up with Easy Funding when you book, you not only get a holiday but also contribute to FODS. It's a win-win situation! For more info go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

Match Funding schemes offer another opportunity to raise funds.


Do you work for an organisation that has a match funding policy in place? If so, they might be willing to match funds for one of FODS' events. We'd love to hear from you if this is the case. A letter with further details will be sent out shortly.



Earlier this year, we distributed a survey via the ParentApp to gather your feedback on how we can enhance our events and allocate funds more effectively. A recurring suggestion was to invest in additional IT equipment and supporting class trips. We've taken this feedback on board and currently exploring the best way to address these needs. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond; your thoughts are greatly appreciated!



Do you have various nativity costumes, world book day costumes, house colour t-shirts, preloved uniform or even Christmas jumpers that are no longer needed and are taking up space?

Throughout the year FODS plan to hold collections where you can donate these items of clothing. Dates will then be announced when the rail will be available

for items to be purchased for a small donation. This will help keep costs down for parents and carers but also a great way to reduce waste and recycle! 

And if you were thinking of having a spring clear out this Easter and have good quality toys or books that are no longer needed then speak to your class rep as school may be able to reuse them.

And finally, a big thank you goes to the school gardeners and Shady Gardeners

who through the dark and damp winter months have worked tirelessly to make the school grounds and stone circle area outside the school gates look so bright and cheerful, decorating for lots of festivities including Christmas, Valentines Day and Easter. Thank you so much for making the school and surrounding areas fun and inviting! 


Dates for your diary!

Monday 22nd April – Saturday 27th

April – is Community Week at school! If you can spare some time, particularly if you're handy with a drill or a paintbrush, your help will be greatly appreciated.

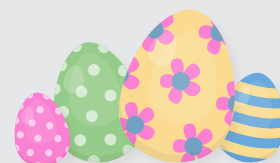
Friday 28th June – Summer Fair

We're looking for lots of volunteers to either help with the planning of this event or helping out on the day. If you could help by volunteering in any way possible, we'd love to hear from you!

You can contact us through Facebook – '*FODS Friends of Dobcross*', email: friendsofdobcrossschool@gmail.com, or you can always ask any of us in the playground at pickup/drop off as everyone is always welcome to join.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter! The FODS Team. 

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