



FOWHIS NEWSLETTER

March 2021

DIARY DATES

FoWHIS AGM
Monday 26th April, 8pm
on Zoom*

*Details to follow via Ping

Year Group
T-Towel Self Portraits
completed in class, April

With restrictions hopefully lifting,
if we're able to hold any
social activities this term
we'll let you know
as soon as we do!

Welcome back everyone!

...and to our Spring Newsletter with lots of FoWHIS updates to share with you all. It's great to see school filled with the hustle and bustle of all the children back.

We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support over the past twelve months during these extraordinary times.

We had a great response to our new format FoWHIS by Zoom evening meetings, accessible from the comforts of home, meeting new parents and old friends. We really do hope you can join us at our AGM on Monday 26th April, 8pm!

Our first ever online Christmas Auction was a great success. A last minute change of supplier meant we could still have a Christmas Card Project and our FoWHIS Calendar and, new for 2021, Class photographs proved very popular. We also had an amazing response to our Freshstart Christmas Appeal and February Staff collections. Thank you!

We really hope we'll be able to get together soon in person.

Catherine, Steve, Rachael & Zandra
FoWHIS Committee

Keep in touch / Contact us

✉ fowhis@gmail.com

f Friends of West Hove Infants
School (School Road)
Via your FoWHIS Class Rep

In this edition

- **Annual General Meeting** re-scheduled for 26th April, 8pm
- **Fundraising Priorities update**
- **New outdoor Classroom** delivered
- **Y1 and Y2 Maths Packs** distributed (YR Home Learning Packs coming soon)
- **Special Funding Request** - Chromebooks
- **Fundraising and Activities updates**

Pre-loved School Uniforms

Spring has arrived. And it looks like lots of the children have sprung up over the past few months too!

If you have **school uniform/shoes** that no longer fit please consider offering them to other families through our **f Friends of WHIS Pre-loved uniforms** page. Equally, if you're seeking items to see you through to the end of term please take a look.

Items are offered FREE and arrangements made between individuals to collect items, respecting current restrictions. If able, we kindly ask for a donation to FoWHIS for items taken (payable online) but the main aim is pass WHIS school uniforms/school shoes onwards to other families.



FOWHIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**PARENTS, CARERS AND FRIENDS please join us for our
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Monday 26th April, 8pm on Zoom**

Another first, our rescheduled AGM is going virtual this year. **Meet the team and other parents/carers**, find out more about FoWHIS, what we've been up to, how funds were spent and a chance to get involved in our lovely school, either as a Committee Member, volunteer or supporter. We've missed being able to hold our social events, see all the children having fun and the opportunity to showcase how rewarding and fun (at times a little crazy) volunteering with FoWHIS is. We hope we've still inspired and encouraged you to get involved.

As well an opportunity to see one another, we do have some official business, including **electing the Committee Members**.

FoWHIS NEEDS NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS! We're looking for new Committee Members to join our core team to continue running activities, events and fundraising in the year ahead. With our Committee now down to four there just isn't enough resource between us. It's a great experience and opportunity to be more involved with school life. We have **vacancies** for **Deputy Chair** and **Co-Treasurer** as well as **Committee Members**.

The Committee are **supported by a team of many** more: FoWHIS Class Reps, people offering specific skills and an army of volunteers who all help to run our activities, especially for social events, which will be possible again!

If you'd like to find out more **about getting involved**, would like to **become a Committee Member** or **work alongside us** to support us **please contact us for a no obligation chat asap**.

ALL WELCOME

FoWHIS AGM
Monday 26 April, 8pm
AGENDA

- **Welcome & Overview**
- **AGM & Treasurers Reports**
 - **Successes & Challenges**
 - **Monies Raised and Spent**
- **Election of Core Members**
- **Aims for next year**
- **Feedback and Ideas**

FOWHIS FUNDING PRIORITIES 2020-21

With reduced funds and an uncertain year ahead for the 2020-21 priorities were restricted, agreed against monies previously accrued. To date this has funded:

- **£5,914** final payment for the new **Outdoor Classroom** (ring fenced)
- **£868** to replenish the **Y1 and Y2 Maths Packs** distributed to all Y1 and Y2 pupils
- **£94.90** to purchase a school licence for **Numbots** to be used by Y1 and Y2
- **£736*** to **purchase a new YR Home Pack** currently being finalised
- **£3,000 (£1,000 per year group)** to purchase **on-site experiences/activities** and/or Year group Resources. Activities are being booked for the summer term as we go to press, including visits by Zoolab Experiences and Beat Goes On workshop

Your amazing support means we have been able to continue fundraising. This meant that, when school made a special request in January, we had new funds available and we were unanimous in prioritising:

- **£1,200** to purchase **Chromebook** to provide loaned devices to families unable to access remote learning due to lack of technology.

We now have a further **£3,000** funds available. We're liaising with school to agree new funding priorities for the remainder of the year and next. None of this would be possible without your on going support!

**Thank
you!**

to everyone who has supported our fundraising activities, donated items for our Auction and collections, set up a regular payment, volunteered your time and supported us during this extraordinary and difficult year. We really do appreciate your support.



New Outdoor classroom arrived at school!

It's finally here! After all the delays we're so excited to see the **new FOWHIS funded Outdoor Classroom** installed on site during the February half term break. The building is currently 'settling' and the supplier will be returning over Easter to finish the initial installation.

This amazing 20x10ft double glazed, insulated log cabin is the latest FoWHIS-funded project, a £12,000 investment made possible thanks to cumulative fundraising efforts 2018-2020.



We're now liaising with school to confirm the final spec to create an amazing outdoor learning space for all year groups to enjoy and benefit from. In the meantime, YR are using the outside area in their 'bubbles'.

We'll be fundraising to fit out the classroom, outdoor space and resource activities - more details to follow soon!

Maths Packs for Y1 and Y2

A huge team effort by FoWHIS volunteers and Staff saw the Y1 and Y2 Maths Packs go home during January's lockdown. We love receiving feedback and photos of these great resources being used so enthusiastically by the children and some great home-school 'teaching' the grown ups.

Fully funded by FoWHIS, School will collect the Packs back in July, volunteers will sort, count and clean all the contents, replacement items ordered and the Packs made ready to give out to the next year groups. Y1 Packs are now in their third year and Y2 Packs are in their second year of re-issue! Have fun playing and learning but please take care of them so they can be re-used again next year.

NEW for 2021 we're excited to be adding a YR Home Learning Pack, coming home very soon via YR Teachers.



NEW!
YR Pack
Coming Soon!



Special Funding Request for Chromebooks

As we entered Lockdown in January, School approached us with a Special funding request. The recent Tech Survey had identified 30 families across WHIS without access to any device for remote learning. Each device cost approximately £150. School were able to provide 15 devices and approached the PTAs at both sites to see if we could assist with the shortfall.

Thankfully funds were available and FoWHIS were able to **fund eight devices**. These were loaned to families during lockdown and have now been returned and continue to support families in the event of learning from home, supporting homework and used in-school as learning resources. They will be very well used!

We would like to say a **special thank you** for two very generous personal donations totalling £200 towards these purchases.

*Infants schools KS1 were excluded from free technology being issued by the government



FUNDRAISING AND ACTIVITIES

FUNDRAISING

FoWHIS Calendar & Class Photos

raised a incredible
£1,292.60

Commission on the
children's fabulous
Christmas Cards and Gifts
£405.40

Our first ever online
Christmas Auction
raised an amazing
£918.84

Some fabulous reading raised
Readathon sponsorship
£248.53*
plus Gift Aid to claim

Commission on
Stickin Labels
added up to
£58.81

**** Total Year to Date ****
£3,758.18

Donations/Payments

can be made via

Sum Up

bit.ly/fowhis-donation

(NB: we've temporarily suspended new
payments via Paypal due to technical
issues)

Movie Night

At little different to a rowdy crowd of 250 in the school Hall, we were delighted many of you joined us to celebrate reaching the end of February term with our "At-home-but-together Superhero Movie Night" home packs, popcorn and a family film.

FoWHIS Wall Calendar

On a dry October day, we had a great time photographing all twelve classes, against a tight schedule. Choosing the final photos where all 30 children are photogenic is not an easy task!

New for 2020 were individual class photos and online purchasing. In hindsight, two class photo sizes making 25 order options altogether was perhaps a bit over ambitious within the circumstances!



Thank you to everyone involved, this was a major team effort:

- ♥ to all the Staff who helped organise the children, on schedule
- ♥ all the children who were so well behaved and great fun
- ♥ Special thanks to Tiffany for her fabulous photography and
- ♥ Steve for overseeing all the logistics from design to print, and supporting Catherine throughout, to make this possible

♥ And everyone who purchased a Calendar and photo.

A few **calendars and photos still available - please contact us!**

Christmas Card Project

Restrictions required a last minute change to a new supplier to facilitate direct online ordering, payment and home delivery - a change that was overdue - making the whole process far easier.

We have very creative children! **Thank you** to everyone who took part. The commission from 155 orders for personalised cards and gifts was a lovely Christmas present to FoWHIS.



Christmas Auction

Sadly we were unable to hold our ever popular Summer Fair Silent Auction last year. So we decided to add to our list a double first - first online and first Christmas Auction. We had an amazing response for donations and lots of Bids right up to the deadline.

A huge **Thank you** to all our wonderful donors, who's generosity made this possible:

UberMummies Handcrafted in Hove Yellowwave
Faber Publishing Curry Mahal My Tiny Beast
Ash Webster Body Transformation The Plate Factory
Portside Personal Training Tales of Me Canham & Sons
Timeless Toys Stoneham Bakehouse
My Little Swim School
Personal donations of Herschal backpacks and Lego set.
And to everyone who bid successfully on Items ♥

Christmas Appeal



Julie and her team were bowled over by the incredible response to their annual **FreshStart Christmas Cheer Charity Appeal**, to provide tailored Christmas Hampers to local families in need across Brighton & Hove, including within our own school community.

Thank you to our team of volunteers Alice, Beth, Catherine, Rachael, Sarah and Zandra who stepped in to provide collection points and everyone who contributed towards two car loads of amazing gifts and food! ❤️

"This year we empowered a record number of families, who may otherwise had a vastly different Christmas. Thank you for supporting our Christmas Cheer project for all the organising, collecting and storing of gifts and food, it was incredible and we so appreciate everything you did this year in such different circumstances".

Julie, FreshStart Project Manager

Staff Collection

January saw once again all WHIS Staff based out of School Road, supporting children in school and at home. We had another fabulous response to our Staff Collection, to spread a little cheer. With 45 staff on-site on a two week rota we delivered two sets of gifts to be shared amongst all staff on each rota.

"Thank you so much everyone. This is once again, so kind of you all. I'm sure staff will be absolutely delighted".

Mrs Harkness

"Thank you so much from me too. The staff will be as bowled over as I am when they enter the staff room! We are extremely lucky to have such wonderful families at our school and we can't wait to see everyone!"

Mr Massey



Thank you to our team of volunteers who again provided collection points and everyone's lovely gifts

MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT FOWHIS

It takes a community to make FoWHIS the continued success it is. We appreciate that people have busy lives, sometimes do not wish to make a regular commitment such as being a Committee Member or are unsure how they can help. Luckily there are **many, varied ways you can help and get involved if you;**

- **Join us** at one of our **Open FoWHIS Meetings** and our **Annual General Meeting** (26 April, 8pm)
- Have **ideas and experience** for new ways to fundraise or applying for grants
- Would like to **help run one of our activities**, with support from the FoWHIS team
- Would like to do a personal/team **sponsored challenge** or hold a **fundraising event** for FoWHIS
- Have **skills, or contacts** we may be able to utilise, including **GDPR** and **Risk Assessments**
- Answer our call for **volunteers** and one-off assistance
- Not sure how you could help, but **willing and enthusiastic** to get involved somehow?

Please DO get in touch, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

And there are easy ways to fundraise;

- Agree **Gift Aid** on eligible Sponsorship donations
- Consider purchasing **Stickin Labels**, quoting **24846**
- Nominate FoWHIS as your chosen Charity when shopping via **Amazon Smile** or **Give as you Live**
- Donate quality **pre-loved school uniforms** or make a donation if you receive an item

And for every purchase, sponsorship, donation or gift you make to support us, Thank You!