



VOLUME 1 • NOVEMBER 2021

# FOSM NEWS

FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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## HELLO AND WELCOME!

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter. We wanted to let you - the parents, carers, families, teachers and St Matthew's community - know a little bit more about us, what we have been up to recently and some of the exciting things we have planned over the coming months.

Our first newsletter contains a bit of background information on the Friends Of St Matthew's group, particularly for our new Reception parents who might want to get involved and share ideas. We've also got some good news to share about our charity status and details of our next fundraising target.

We love to hear your ideas and feedback so please contact us using the details on the back page. Thank you!

## YEAR 6 LOCKDOWN LEAVERS' HOODIES

The picture above is of our fabulous outgoing Year 6 who left us in the summer of 2021 for pastures new. To help the class remember their time at St Matthew's, one of the things we were really keen to support was the design and purchase of Lockdown Leavers' Hoodies, which they are proudly wearing.

Thanks to your fundraising efforts, FOSM were able to provide a donation towards the hoodies, which gave a considerable discount to the final cost for parents and carers. This is something we aim to make a regular contribution towards as part of the Year 6 leaver celebrations each year.

## WHAT ELSE WE HAVE BEEN UP TO RECENTLY...



As well as larger fundraising targets such as the Be Kind, Be Humble Gazebo, much of what we raise goes on small but vital contributions to the school, such as the playground markings and games which were installed last year.



For Halloween, we held The Big Halloween Costume Swap, and two Halloween film nights. Lots of spooooky fun for the children!

In November we held a First Friday treat day after school: a traditional lucky dip and tuck shop.



## ALL ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S CHARITY

### A Bit of a Background

The Friends of St Matthew's Jarrow or FOSM for short is essentially the PTA for our school. We are a voluntary group of parents and carers of current pupils who meet regularly to plan and deliver events for the pupils and to fundraise for activities and equipment that enhance their time at St Matthew's.

We have a core group of three trustees and a pool of regular volunteers who carry out a wide variety of tasks from helping out at events, maintaining our social media account and taking the notes at our meetings.

We work closely with the teaching and support staff to ensure that events we provide and equipment we purchase are in line with the needs and wishes of the pupils and wider school.

### Why we do what we do

We understand that parents and carers might feel like they are often asked to contribute to events and fundraising activity at school. The reason we raise additional funding is to enable school to purchase equipment and events that exceed or are outside of core costs. Primary schools receive different levels of funding from the government and local authority based on a number of factors, and St Matthew's receives a comparatively low allocation than other primary schools in the area therefore has less budget to spend on 'extras'. This is why we volunteer our time and resources for those little (and sometimes big!) extras that make the children's time at school just that bit better and brighter!

### Charity Registration

Having operated informally for a number of years, we are delighted to share the news that FOSM Jarrow is now a Registered Charity with the Charity Commission. This involved adopting a formal constitution, electing a board of trustees and successfully completing the registration process.

This important development means that we have increased opportunities to apply for grant funding and employer support schemes, which are only available to registered charities - see below.

**Our Charity Number is 1196146.**

As a Registered Charity, we will be holding an Annual General Meeting each January to elect our board of trustees, present our annual accounts and give an overview of our year's activities. Look out for details of our AGM coming soon!

### How you can Get Involved!

There are a number of ways you can get involved in FOSM activity. Just some of these are:

- **Volunteering at events** - please contact us for a role description and full details
- **Volunteering remotely** - for instance, helping with funding applications, writing newsletters or social media posts
- **Employer Schemes** - if your company or organisation supports charities with match funding or in any other way we'd love to hear from you!
- **Simply Support** - nothing means more than your support, however small, every donation, like and share makes a huge difference!





## THE TWO TRIM TRAILS FUND

We're sure you'll agree that St Matthew's has an incredible field and surrounding outdoor area, but that it's not very well utilised. Physical activity is a vital part of school life, helping the children keep active is not only good for their physical health but for their mental wellbeing too.

That's why - in consultation with school - our next large-scale fundraising project is for not one, but two Trim Trails - one each for KS1 and KS2 outdoor use. As shown in the example above, Trim Trails are (usually) wooden playground courses which lots of other schools have installed successfully.

Following research, our target for this project is £8,000, which we aim to achieve via a blend of grant applications, match funding and school fundraising activity.

Look out for more information coming soon - if you would like to get involved in this project in any of the ways described on page 2, please get in touch with us using the contact details to the right.

## A FINAL WORD OF THANKS

We want to close this newsletter by saying a huge thank you to each and every one of you who has supported FOSM and the school in recent years; for your many donations, getting involved in events and spreading the word. It's hugely appreciated! We also want to thank our new Head Teacher, Eve Alderson, for all of her support and say how much we look forwards to working together in the future!



## BONUS BALL FOR BOTS



Every term, we ask the teachers and leadership team at school for their 'wish list' of resources and equipment. One thing we've had a direct request for are the purchase of Bee Bots - small, educational robots which introduce children to creating simple programmes. We think this is a brilliant idea and are happy to help!

We have already raised £342 this term - some of which has been ear-marked for a special Christmas surprise for the children - so we will be holding a 'Chocolate and Booze' bonus ball in order to match-fund the buying of the Bots. Look out for details on our Facebook page later this week!

## HOW TO CONTACT US

If you would like more information on anything in this newsletter or to contact us about volunteering, have a chat or share ideas you can:

Email us at:  
[fosmjarrow@gmail.com](mailto:fosmjarrow@gmail.com)

Message us on Facebook:  
[@FOSMjarrow](https://www.facebook.com/FOSMjarrow)

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