

# FOCUS Newsletter

December 2018

[focusucps@gmail.com](mailto:focusucps@gmail.com)



Dear parents, carers and teachers,

There is much to mention in this December issue of the FOCUS newsletter, but we would particularly like to focus (pun very much intended!) on how the school community has come together to achieve so much in the space of one short (and incredibly busy!) month. An increasing number of parents have taken an active role in helping at FOCUS-led events and, as a direct result of this collaboration and spirit of generosity, we have raised far more donations for the school this month than in any single month previously. More than this, we hope that the children have had lots of fun with family and friends and, importantly, that they feel part of a community that cares about them. **Thank you all so much for making this such a special month in so many ways.** Please read on for more details of this month's fundraising activities.

FOCUS will continue to work with Dr. Biddulph and the wider school team to build up our sense of community further and to fund projects that can have the most positive impact on our children's education. We will share more details of these initiatives with you in the new year.

We wish you all a very happy, healthy and restful Winter Holiday and look forward to seeing what more we can achieve together next term!

The FOCUS 2019 team (email: [focusucps@gmail.com](mailto:focusucps@gmail.com))

## Save the dates



**Sunday 6 January, 12 pm-2 pm**

Girton Glebe School's annual Christmas tree-shredding event  
*Takes place at Girton Glebe School. All profits go to FOGG, Girton Glebe's PTA.*

**Friday 18 January after school**

Years 4/5 bake sale and  
Gardening Club Jumble Sale

**More to come in the new year!**

If you have any ideas for events that can help to raise money for the school, we would love to hear from you. Please email FOCUS at [focusucps@gmail.com](mailto:focusucps@gmail.com).

## Gardening Club fundraiser

The Gardening Club (independent of FOCUS) held its first Jumble Sale on 14 December. It raised **£287.96**, and with these proceeds, it hopes to purchase a willow dome for the school, as in the picture below.

The club is also fundraising for a water wildlife garden.



## Update on the inaugural FOCUS Christmas tree sale

FOCUS raised a fantastic **£1,108.46** for the school from our first tree sale. We have received only positive feedback about the quality of the trees (2 examples shown here), and hope to make next year's sale even more successful.



## Dont forget Girton Glebe's tree-shredding event!

FOCUS worked in partnership with Girton Glebe School to promote our respective Christmas tree fundraisers. Following the success of our own tree sale, we want to drum up as much support as possible for Girton Glebe's tree-shredding event. This will take place at Girton Glebe School on Sunday 6 January from 12pm to 2pm. Children's craft activities will be run, and the school is also hosting the Repair Cafe Network and Wheelie Fresh Bins. All profits go to Girton Glebe.

## Winterfest was a huge success and showcased our growing - and enormously talented - community!



FOCUS is immensely grateful to everyone who volunteered their time and talents, as well as to everyone from our school community and beyond that made donations. We particularly want to thank our performers from the parent community:

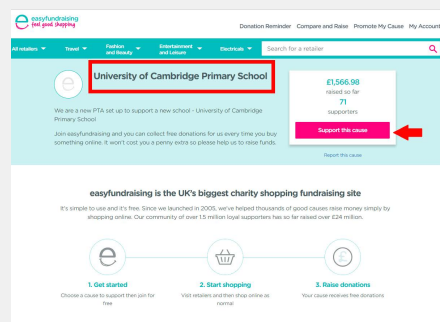
- Piano solo from Sarah Blazeby
- Dad Band (Devin McLachlan, Ian Hood and Sean Campbell)
- Gospel solo from Errol Ballantyne
- Cambridge University Gospel Choir (CUGC) performers with Carole Ibe.

We also want to highlight the contribution of those children that wanted to find a way to give back to their community and got involved with events on the day. Thanks so much to all of you - you made this an incredibly memorable event!

FOCUS raised more than double the amount raised during last year's Winterfest! We will share more-exact figures in the new year!



## Signing up to the UCPS easyfundraising account



If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up to [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) to raise free donations for the University of Cambridge Primary School when you are shopping online, especially for any last-minute Christmas shopping!

Since promoting this charity-shopping fundraising site in last month's FOCUS newsletter, we have raised an **additional £40** for the school and increased the **total number of UCPS users to 81**. With your help, we can increase these figures next month too!

During the month of December, [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) is giving away £250 in prizes and donations. In addition, **the site will donate £5 to the school for every new supporter who joins and raises their first £5**.

This [short video](#) provides a very simple explanation of how to sign up. The app can be used with an extensive range of retailers.

## Highlights of other FOCUS-led fundraising activities in December



- **Year 2 Post Office** (3-14 December): Year 2 students continued this tradition and in addition to delivering hundreds of cards to fellow students, had the chance to practice their maths too!
- **Reception Bake Sale** (14 December): You raised a superb **£236.45!**
- **Disco** (17 December): This was a great way to reward the kids for all their hard work this term. For the first time, it included a silent disco for students with sensory sensitivities, as well as healthy food options. Final figures will be reported next month.

**Reminder:** One of FOCUS' main goals is to nurture our community, so where FOCUS events list a 'fee', this is simply a suggested and optional donation. We want all our families to attend and participate in as many events as possible!