

FOCUS Newsletter

Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School

Happy New Year

Welcome back to Spring term 2020 and to the new look FOCUS newsletter. FOCUS is our school's parent teacher association and as a parent/carer of a UCPS pupil you are automatically a member!

HIGHLIGHTS OF AUTUMN 2019



The winter festivities were a great success, with UCPS pupils and families enjoying and helping to build our community with the school discos/film night and the Winterfest - It was great to see parents, teachers and children all contributing to this event and we want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed, whether it was their time, raffle prizes or donations!

FOCUS NEWS

As a committee we have a few key points on our agenda for the coming year and looking ahead to the FOCUS AGM:

1

We need to find a HOME for FOCUS - the cupboard needs to be relocated and possible locations on school grounds are currently being explored for a FOCUS takeover and the building of a permanent shed that can be used moving forward.

2

Part of finding a home for FOCUS is a big push to build on the UCPS community through sharing events in partnership with the school and parents.....we will be helping to celebrate cultural diversity with events focusing on, food, dance and stories throughout the year....more info to follow!

3

The current committee are hoping to change the FOCUS constitution so the committee's term will run for the annual year rather than the academic year, giving the new committee the winter term to shadow the current committee before they take over!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING 2020

Bake Sales
Quiz nights
Film night
Gardening day
World book day celebration

Design
Competition
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SUMMER 2020

Scratch day
Summer Fair
Leavers event
Campfest

If you are interested in helping with these events please contact us at focusucps@gmail.com

Treasurers Report

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

A big thank you to Anahi Romero and her team for running the Christmas tree sales this year.

The Christmas tree sale proved a popular service to our UCPS families as well as a great festive fundraiser. This year we raised just over £1000 for the school.



PLAYGROUND UPDATE

The first stage of the FOCUS sponsored playground equipment is due to start this month....!

FUNDING REQUEST FORM

Our process to request funds from FOCUS for fundraising events and school enrichment projects can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZO0pgEhBitDV6erib9CDUubVpamWQZOT/view?usp=sharing>.

CAMPFEST 2020

18th JULY

Join us for our first ever UCPS Campfest!

The idea is to have our own mini music festival with live bands, garden games and facepainting, rounded off with hot chocolate and campfire stories. For those who wish, there will hopefully be the option to camp.

Tickets and further details will be available via WisePay.

Please **note:** There's a target number tickets that need to be sold by the end of March for event to go ahead.



LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

Calling all children to get creative and enter a design for the official FRIENDS OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL logo! FOCUS helps support our school by organising fun events for our community (which includes our friends, family and teachers) and raise money to support your learning.

It might help to ask yourself "Who are FOCUS", "What do FOCUS do?", "What is a logo?" and "What makes a good logo?"

Winning design will be used on FOCUS digital and print media!

Entries to class teachers or email digital files to focusucps@gmail.com by **MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY**



Help build our UCPS community

If you have anything you would like to be directly involved in or organise please contact FOCUS so we can help to arrange - for instance the Turkish coffee morning last year was a great success!

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please come along and chat with other UCPS parents/carers at one of the inclusion coffee mornings (open to all UCPS parents/carers). The next one is after drop off on Friday 13th March.

Travel Committee

BIG PEDAL 2020

22nd April - 5th May is the Big Pedal, which is a national event that aims to get people to cycle, walk and scoot to school.

There will be lots of fun activities at school and in Eddington, and we will be taking part in a national challenge to see who can get the highest percentage of their pupils, staff and parents cycling, walking or scooting to school. More details to follow.

<https://bigpedal.org.uk>



DO YOU WANT TO MAKE EDDINGTON A SAFER PLACE?



The Eddington Speedwatch group are looking for additional lovely volunteers. Wearing a cool yellow jacket, you'll get to collect information on drivers speeding in the 20 mph zone, right in front of our children's school. With support from the local police force, you will have a real, positive impact on safety levels, and also noise/fume levels on Eddington Avenue. A message via WisePay will be sent out for those wishing to join.

FOCUS MEETINGS

Next FOCUS Meeting is after drop off on **FRIDAY 31st January** at Storey's Field Centre. Please come and join us.

We will also be setting up a separate meeting for organising this year's Summer Fair extravaganza, so please email us at focusucps@gmail.com if you would like to get involved with subject **Summer Fair**

How to contribute financially

There are several ways you can help raise funds for the school.



GREEN SHOOTS FUND

We all share the school's vision to provide an exceptional education for our children. To help the school to fulfil this vision as fully as possible, FOCUS set up the 'Green Shoots Fund' to raise additional and much-needed discretionary funds for the school.

This initiative is an easy and efficient way for the parent and wider community to ease some of the school's financial burdens, which will help the school to deliver its broad and ambitious curriculum.

Please email focusucps@gmail.com with subject **Green Shoots Fund** or talk to Leah Loughnane or Anne Lally for details.

I'M SAFE & HAPPY APP



This educational jigsaw puzzle game is designed to help parents, teachers and caregivers to introduce the subject of safety and teach children to protect themselves in positive ways by teaching them how to identify suspicious or dangerous situations and respond

to them appropriately. The app was created by one of our UCPS parents and is suitable for children of 4+ years. All profits go directly to FOCUS.

EASYFUNDRAISING

An easy way to raise money for the school when you purchase anything from Amazon, Argos or John Lewis (and many others).

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/universityofcambridgeps/>

AMAZON SMILE

Support Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School on Amazon Smile

<http://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

School Discounts

STAMPTASTIC

When linking from the school's website, you can receive a 30% discount by applying the code 'AMBITIOUS'.

<http://www.stamptastic.co.uk/products>

MY NAMETAGS

Our school ID is 83562. A 20% discount is available to the school community.

<https://www.mynametags.com/>

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY	
THU 13	Year 3 Bake Sale
FRI 14	Family Friday
WEEK 17-21	HALF TERM

MARCH	
THU 5	World Book Day
THU 26	Year 2 Bake Sale
FRI 27	Family Friday
TBC	Cultural & Diversity event - literature and stories*

APRIL	
THU-MON 02-19	EASTER HOLIDAYS plus INSET DAY
WED 22	Earth Day Big Pedal

MAY	
TBC	Cultural & Diversity event - international food market*
FRI 08	BANK HOLIDAY
TBC	Scratch Day
THU 21	Year 1 Bake Sale
FRI 22	Family Friday
WEEK 25-29	HALF TERM

JUNE	
SAT 27	Summer Fair*

JULY	
THU 16	Reception Bake Sale
FRI 17	Leavers Event*
SAT 18	Campfest 2020*
THU 23	END OF TERM

* These events are to be confirmed

FOCUS Who's Who

Chair

Shosh Miller-Langley

Treasurer

Erin Gontang

Secretary

Mariko Brittain

Ordinary Members

Yasmin Begum, Anjali Das, Ema Infante, Niru Shaathvegan, Pam Tsvetkova, Jingli Yang

Green Shoots

Anne Lalley and Leah Loughnane

Reception

Acorns Cecilia Sandrini and Sara Hajnassiri

Pumpkins Ema Infante and Jingli Yang

Sunflowers Pam Tsvetkova

Year 1

Bumblebees Elodie Cameron and Sarah Lynch

Butterflies **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME**

Dragonflies Anindita Biswas and Irene Young

Year 2

Robins Njemile Faustin and Natalie Williams

Skylarks Rebecca Birkett-Smith and Serpil Yilmaz

Swifts Howard Dandy & Irina Leavy

Year 3

Maple **VOLUNTEERS**

WELCOME

Oaks Pam Tsvetkova and Mariko Brittain

Redwood **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME**

Year 4

Amazon Christine Jiggins and Anahi Romero

Nile Mel Gulston and Liz Nantais

Year 5

Fuji Charlotte Anderson and Amanda Moss

Year 6

Polaris Sarah Cottee, Emma Longden and Stephen Longden

CONTACT

focusucps@gmail.com