

# FOCUS Newsletter

Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School

## Welcome to the 2021 FOCUS Newsletter

The FOCUS committee extends a warm welcome to all the children and their families. Its so nice to see all the lovely smiling faces in the middle of such unsettling times. We hope that all of you had a lovely Easter break and are looking forward to the upcoming weeks.

### Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser Success!!!!

FOCUS is delighted to announce that the 2020 Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser brought in an incredible **£3,052.76!**

A record 70 trees and wreaths were purchased, and we are pleased to share that funds raised via tree sales were double matched this year by The BGL Group. Reception parent Daniel Moran shared FOCUS' efforts with his company, and The BGL Group double matched all funds

raised up to £1,000. What an amazing gift for our school!!! We are incredibly grateful to all the families who purchased one of the beautiful Christmas Trees as part of the holiday fundraiser, and we thank all of the volunteers for helping make the fundraiser a success! Again, a BIG thank you to everyone involved, and FOCUS hopes you will consider supporting

the next Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser later this year!

### FOCUS Cupboard Has A New Home On Campus!

On 24 February, FOCUS had our new shed delivered and installed outside the Y3 classrooms. FOCUS enlisted the help of Easyshed Ltd to build and install a beautiful new shed on the UCPS campus that allows us to move out of the FOCUS cupboard inside the school. Funds to build and install the shed were raised ahead of the pandemic, and we were



delighted to have it delivered ahead of all students returning to school in March. FOCUS would like to thank everyone involved in bringing this project to fruition, and it is exciting to return the space inside school to the students and yet retain a space at school to store FOCUS supplies and prepare for FOCUS events!

## Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

Does your company or employer support charities as part of their annual giving campaign? If you believe FOCUS may be eligible to work with or benefit from your company or employer's charitable efforts, please be in touch! We'd love to hear from you to determine how we can work together to raise additional funds for our school! Please email: [FOCUSUCPS@gmail.com](mailto:FOCUSUCPS@gmail.com)

## Children-Designed Tea Towels

As a FOCUS fundraiser, we are selling tea towels decorated by our very own children's self portraits, similar to the tote bags that were sold a few years ago. The children have drawn their likeness at school and these will be showcased in a design per year group. These personalised tea towels are available to purchase via the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/friendsofucps/events/tea-towels?authuser=0>



Years 4, 5 & 6  
(Names removed)

## COMMUNICATION

### WisePay Emails

Official FOCUS emails will be sent via the school WisePay system.

### WhatsApp Groups

However, please connect with your child's class WhatsApp group if you wish to receive FOCUS announcements and last minute reminders!

[Ask your class rep to add you.](#)



Reception & Year 1  
(Names removed)



Year 2 & Year 3  
(Names removed)

## How to contribute financially

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

### CO-OP LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND

FOCUS is delighted to announce that our charity has been selected to take part in the Co-op Local Community Fund. When you buy selected Co-op products and services at ANY participating Co-op, 2p for every £1 spent in store or online goes into your membership account. By selecting 'Friends of the University of Cambridge Primary School' as your local cause, the Co-op donates the money you raise directly to FOCUS to support outdoor education and projects at our school. SO exciting!

If you not already a Co-op member, please consider becoming a member to participate in Local Community Fund giving. To become a Co-op member, please visit the following website: <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>

We encourage any and all Co-op members to consider choosing 'Friends of the University of Cambridge Primary School' as their local cause: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/55189>

**Anyone** can choose to make our school their local cause, so please let family and friends know they can become Co-op members and choose the 'Friends of the University of Cambridge Primary School' as their local cause.

Thank you!

## YOUR ONLINE PURCHASES

FOCUS has partnered with a number of organisations to help raise money for UCPS. These companies donate a portion of the amount you spend online directly to FOCUS! Please consider supporting UCPS when you shop online.

### AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service; but by using AmazonSmile, a percentage of what you spend goes directly to FOCUS.

Use [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) to shop Amazon, and choose "Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School" as your charitable organization.

Also, anyone can use AmazonSmile and choose "Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School" as their charitable organization, so please share with your friends and family!

### EasyFundraising

EasyFundraising partners with over 4,000 online retailers, including Tesco, Argos, John Lewis, M&S, and Booking.com, and these retailers make a contribution to FOCUS when you purchase from them online.

To date, over £2,500 has been raised by UCPS families using EasyFundraising!

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>, select "University of Cambridge Primary School" as your cause, and join EasyFundraising for free.

It's so easy, and makes a BIG difference to the school! And again, anyone can use EasyFundraising and choose to support UCPS, so please share this information with your friends and family!

## Stamptastic

Stamptastic offers a quick and easy way to label school uniform...no sewing or ironing labels, simply stamp instead! Stamptastic's magic ink withholds 50 washes on care labels without fading.

Visit <https://stamptastic.co.uk/> for more details, and add the FOCUS PTA code at checkout (CB30QZ). FOCUS receives a commission on everything in your basket.

## My Nametags

My Nametags colour stickers can be stuck on to school uniforms and clothing, and will stay on in the wash. When applied to the washing or care labels of clothes, they can stay on for years. My Nametags can also be used on clothing and shoes, as well as PE bags, rucksacks, water bottles and books.

Visit <https://www.mynametags.com/> for more details, and use UCPS' School ID at checkout (83562). FOCUS receives a commission on your entire purchase.



## GREEN SHOOTS FUND

We all share the school's vision to provide an exceptional education for our children. To help the school achieve 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.

There are many ways to donate to the Green Shoots Fund. For example, as a parent, you can make one-off donations via your WisePay account or via bank transfer; recurring donations and payroll giving are also possible and greatly appreciated.

For more information, you can visit the UCPS website and view the 'Donations and Green Shoots Fund' page under Parent Information, or you can email [focusucps@gmail.com](mailto:focusucps@gmail.com) with subject **Green Shoots Fund**, or chat with Leah Loughnane.

## I'M SAFE & HAPPY APP



This educational jigsaw puzzle game is designed to help parents, teachers and caregivers introduce the subject of safety. It teaches children to

protect themselves in positive ways by helping them understand 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 4+. All profits go directly to FOCUS.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/im-safe-and-happy/id1456400385>

## JUST GIVING

FOCUS is in the process of setting up a JustGiving page as a way to raise money for our school. The JustGiving site will allow us to collect donations when we run (virtual) events throughout the year. More information will be coming soon!

## **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.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions, and always appreciate your support!

### **FUNDING REQUEST FORM**

The 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>.



## Calendar of Events

APRIL		MAY - JUNE		JULY	
MON 12	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY (No school)	MON - FRI 28 -04	HALF TERM	THU 22	LAST DAY OF TERM (1:30pm collection)
TUE 13	START OF TERM				
FRI 30	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY (No school)				

## FOCUS Who's Who

### FOCUS COMMITTEE

#### Chair

Anindita Biswas

#### Treasurer

Carmelina Capella

#### Secretary

Sophie Anthony

#### Ordinary Members

Shital Bharwas, Mariko Brittain, Erin Gontang, Ceren Kaser, Shosh Miller-Langley & Niru Shaathvegan

#### Green Shoots

Leah Loughnane

### CLASS REPS

#### Reception

**Acorns** Cecilia Sandrini

**Pumpkins** Carmelina

Cappella & Anahi Romero

**Sunflowers** Rebecca

Birkett-Smith & Charlotte

Anderson

#### Year 1

**Bumblebees**

**VOLUNTEERS WELCOME**

**Butterflies** Cecilia

Sandrini, Pam Tsvetkova &

Jingli Yang

**Dragonflies** Sara Hajnassiri

#### Year 2

**Robins** Anindita Biswas & Irene Yeung

**Skylarks** Shosh Miller-

Langley & Mariko Brittain

**Swifts** Macelo Lima

#### Year 3

**Maple** Rebecca Birkett-Smith and Howard Dandy

**Oaks** Serpil Yilmaz &

Njemile Faustin

**Redwood** Hai Xin & Irina

Leavy

#### Year 4

**Amazon** Shosh Miller-Langley

**Nile VOLUNTEERS**

**WELCOME**

**Thames** Pam Tsvetkova & Mariko Brittain

#### Year 5

**Fuji** Anahi Romero

**Olympus** Emma Chaplin

#### Year 6

**Polaris** Charlotte Anderson & Amanda Moss

## CONTACT

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