

FOCUS Newsletter

Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School

Welcome

The FOCUS committee would like to welcome all new and returning families back to school! It's been a while since our last newsletter with the pandemic creating so much upheaval. However, even during these wild times, FOCUS remains committed to fostering community and raising funds to support our school. We are unable to hold in-person events due to current government guidelines, but there's still so much we can do.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE SCHOOL

Please remember you can help raise money for the school with:

AMAZON SMILE

EASY FUNDRAISING

GREEN SHOOTS FUND

[See page 3 for details](#)

FOCUS AGM

It is coming around to the FOCUS Annual General Meeting (AGM).

This year, due to the pandemic, the FOCUS AGM will be held virtually via Zoom on **Tuesday, October 20th at 8pm.**

The agenda of the AGM will be as follows:

- Re-cap of 2019-2020 academic year events
- Financial report for 2019-2020 academic year
- Voting on constitutional amendment
- Election of FOCUS committee members

Motion to amend tenure of FOCUS committee members.

At present, committee members serve for an academic year, but there is a motion to amend the constitution such that committee members serve for a full calendar year. If the amendment

is passed, new committee members will continue to be voted in at the annual AGM in October, but will not fully assume their roles until 1 January. This would allow for at least one half term of handover (Autumn term), and help ensure that there is an active FOCUS committee at the beginning of each academic year to help welcome new and returning families to the school.

Summary of Committee Roles

CHAIR: leads and co-ordinates the FOCUS calendar and events.

SECRETARY: co-ordinates the correspondence between FOCUS committee and parents, is responsible for taking meeting notes.

TREASURER: co-ordinates FOCUS finances.

ORDINARY MEMBER: assists in the planning and co-ordination of events.

All parents are automatically members of FOCUS, but if you have a particular interest in taking on any of the above roles, please contact FOCUS ahead of the AGM.

Again, if you have any questions, concerns, or wish to put your name forward for any of the FOCUS committee positions, please email: FOCUSUCPS@gmail.com.

Many thanks, and we hope to see you at the AGM on **Tuesday, 20 October, 2020 at 8pm.**

LAST YEARS HIGHLIGHTS

Forest School Fundraiser

FOCUS wishes to thank Marcelo Lima who helped organise the forest school fundraiser, and thank everyone who donated.

A fantastic £1,610.46 was raised, and already £248.80 in saplings from the Woodland Trust have been purchased, as well as £41.71 in tree guards and bamboo supports. This leaves over £1300 for Ms. Bates and the forest school team to spend on a new shed and equipment.



Playground update

You will all have seen the new playground equipment and outdoor learning rooms. They are a great addition to our school!

New Books

FOCUS has contributed £200 to the UCPS Library for the purchase of books that celebrate diversity and cultures around the world.

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 to receive FOCUS announcements and last minute reminders! [Ask your class rep to add you.](#)

Classlist

[Classlist.com](https://www.classlist.com/) is a good forum for asking about lost items, and sharing extracurricular activities and local events for children.

How to contribute financially

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

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 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 withstands 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 with subject **Green Shoots Fund**, or chat with Leah Loughnane or Anne Lally.

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

OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
TUE 20	FOCUS Annual General Meeting (AGM)	THU-FRI 19-20	TEACHER TRAINING DAYS (No school)	THU 17	Flu Immunisation
WEEK 26-30	HALF TERM			FRI 18	LAST DAY OF TERM

FOCUS Who's Who

FOCUS COMMITTEE

Chair

Shosh Miller-Langley

Treasurer

Erin Gontang

Secretary

Mariko Brittain

Ordinary Members

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

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
VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Year 6

Polaris Charlotte Anderson
& Amanda Moss

CONTACT

focusucps@gmail.com