

FOCUS Newsletter

Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School

The 2020 FOCUS AGM

We were very pleased with the turn out at our first ever virtual annual general meeting. Thank you to everyone in attendance!

In addition to recapping the past year's events, the FOCUS treasurer reviewed the charity's finances, upcoming events were discussed, the organisation's constitution was amended, and elections were held to fill the 2021 FOCUS committee.

As announced in September and passed at the AGM, all FOCUS committee members elected at the AGM in October will serve on the committee for a full calendar year rather than an academic year. All committee members elected last month will hold their positions for all of 2021. The revised tenure will help ensure there is an active FOCUS committee at the beginning of each academic year to help welcome new and returning families to the school. The revised tenure also allows for at least one half term of handover between committees, which will help the new committee's transition to their roles.

The 2021 FOCUS committee includes:

CHAIR: Anindita Biswas

VICE-CHAIR: Aimee Durning

SECRETARY: Sophie Anthony

TREASURER: Carmelina Capella

ORDINARY MEMBERS:

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

~ Together we are FOCUS ~

AMAZING NEWS!

FOCUS selected to team up with the 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!

FOCUS Christmas Trees Now On Sale! Order by November 30th



Back for our third year, FOCUS is selling Christmas Trees, with all profits going to the school. The Christmas Tree sale is a huge fundraiser for UCPS, especially important this year as we are unable to hold in-person events for the foreseeable future.

Please consider purchasing your Christmas Tree through FOCUS; the trees are of the highest quality and locally grown!

For more information about the Nordmann Fir and Norway Spruce trees available, as well as prices and payment methods, please visit the FOCUS Christmas Tree Sale website: <https://sites.google.com/view/friendsofucps/events/ucps-christmas-trees>

Pumpkin Carving Competition

Thank you to all those who entered the pumpkin carving competition and donated to the event. We raised £138, received 71 entries, and are pleased to announce the winners of the pumpkin carving competitions. Each winner receives a £20 book voucher for their class, which can be used to purchase books for all to enjoy! Also, the money raised during the event will be used to purchase additional resources for the school's library.

Reception & KS1 Winner: Lorenzo (Pumpkins)



KS2 Winner: Brea (Amazon)



Class with the most entries: Dragonflies

Children-Designed Tea Towels

As a FOCUS fundraiser, we are planning to sell 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 will draw their likeness at school and these will be showcased in a design per year group. These personalised tea towels will be available to pre-order so watch this space.



Tote bags as example of what the tea towels will be like

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.](#)

Classlist

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

FOCUS CHRISTMAS TREES

All profits go to the University of Cambridge Primary School

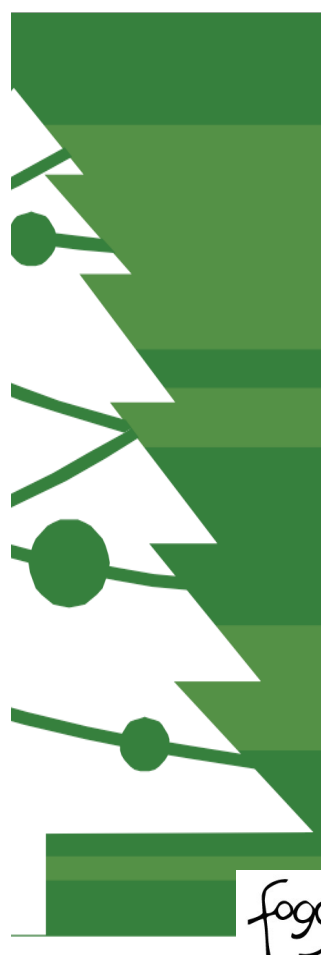
FRESH-CUT TREES
NORWAY SPRUCE AND NORMANN FIR

Potted Trees and Wreaths available on request

Order/Pay by 30th Nov. from <http://bit.ly/xmasfocus>

Collection on 4th Dec. from School Car Park

Made with PosterMyWall.com Email us: focus@universityprimaryschool.org.uk



Christmas Tree Shredding

Sunday 10th January 2021
12:00 – 2:00 pm
Girton Glebe School

Come and join us for a great community event!

- * **Tree Shredding***
by Acacia Tree Surgery
- * **Wheelie Bin Cleaning***
by Wheelie Fresh Bins
- * **Other COVID safe activities if possible**

* Suggested donation of £2. All proceeds go to Friends of Girton Glebe, Registered Charity 1098145

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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 withholds 50 washes on care labels without fading.

Visit <https://stampstastic.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.

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

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY	
WED-THU 18-19	Learning Conversations	SAT 5	FOCUS Christmas Tree Collection	MON 4	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY (No school)
THU-FRI 19-20	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS (No school)	THU 17	Flu Immunisation	TUE 5	START OF TERM
MON 30	Last Day to Order FOCUS Christmas Tree	FRI 18	LAST DAY OF TERM (School Dismissed Early)		

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 Emma Chaplin

Year 6

Polaris Charlotte Anderson & Amanda Moss

CONTACT

focusucps@gmail.com