AUTUMN 1 11 OCTOBER 2021

FOCUS Newsletter

Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School

Welcome to the 2021 FOCUS Newsletter

The FOCUS 2021 Committee sends a warm welcome to all new and returning UCPS students, staff, and families! The school year is now well underway, and we look forward to planning and hosting events that will foster community and raise important funds for our school. Read on to learn more about FOCUS and how you can get involved!

What is FOCUS?

UCPS' parent-teacher association (PTA) is called FOCUS (Friends of University of Cambridge Primary School). FOCUS is a registered charity, which aims to support and nurture the UCPS community and raise money for our school. While every parent and carer at UCPS is automatically a member of FOCUS, the FOCUS committee is elected every year at the October annual general meeting (AGM) to spearhead fundraising and community building efforts. The newly elected committee assumes their roles the following January, and remains in their roles for the full calendar year.

The primary goals of FOCUS are to raise vital funds for the school's on-going development and bring our community together through events and activities.

FOCUS works closely with the school team and is committed to raising money to fund projects, such as adding to the library's resources, purchasing playground equipment, and developing the arts and drama experience at UCPS. FOCUS also works with the school to organise events for students, as well as community events for students, their families, and the UCPS staff.

We invite you to learn more and get involved! Please consider donating your time, talent and/or treasure to support FOCUS and UCPS!

For lots more information about FOCUS and how you can get involved, please join us at the FOCUS AGM (details below) or check out the new FOCUS Handbook.

FOCUS Annual General Meeting

The FOCUS AGM will be hosted via Zoom on **Thursday, 21 October, 2021 at 8:00PM**. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Please use the link below to join the meeting.

https://maths-cam-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/97507217146?pwd=OUtqTjlWWkpOOGE2anFBQXdIUEVlZz09

At the FOCUS AGM, we will:

- Recap 2020/2021 FOCUS activities
- Provide 2020/2021 treasury update
- Discuss/suggest 2021/2022 FOCUS activities
- Recruit new committee members, year group representatives & parent volunteers

Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Together we plan some great events and activities, helping create wonderful memories for our children and the UCPS community!

The FOCUS committee meets on a half termly basis, with smaller working groups meeting when necessary to plan larger events. Everyone is welcome to attend, and the dates for the meetings will be advertised in the school newsletters and on the UCPS website.

Each year, at the October AGM, the FOCUS Leadership Team for the upcoming year is elected into office. The roles of Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer are to be filled during the AGM. A member of the UCPS team generally fills the Vice Chair position. In 2021, Mrs. Aimee Durning (UCPS Director of Inclusion & Community) joined the committee as Vice Chair. At least four other committee members are to be named at the AGM to fulfill the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Would you like to contribute your time and talents as a member of the FOCUS committee?! Learn more about the committee member's roles below, and consider putting your name forward to be voted in at the upcoming AGM!

CHAIR: The FOCUS chair leads meetings, co-ordinates the FOCUS calendar and events, and delegates responsibility for FOCUS activities, including the planning and managing of events. The FOCUS chair is responsible for the FOCUS gmail account.

SECRETARY: The FOCUS secretary co-ordinates correspondence between school, the FOCUS committee, and parents. They are responsible for taking notes during FOCUS meetings and for organizing the FOCUS newsletter (sent out to the school via ParentMail every half term).

TREASURER: The FOCUS treasurer manages FOCUS' banking and accounting, is in charge of all interactions with the Charity Commission, and is responsible for providing financial updates and reports at all FOCUS meetings. The FOCUS treasurer is responsible for the FOCUS outlook email account.

COMMUNITY MEMBER (at least four): Community members have agreed to assist in the planning and co-ordination of events.

Year Group Representatives

From this year, FOCUS plans to implement a way for parents and carers to hear from FOCUS when help is needed to plan and manage events. In addition to sending information via the FOCUS newsletters, FOCUS needs a way to rally volunteers and support within year groups, and plans to do so with the help of Year Group Representatives.

Year Group Representatives, two (2) per year group, undertake a very important role, which is to provide a link between the FOCUS Committee and the parents of their individual year group. They also act as a contact for new families joining the school.

Again, the goal is to have at least two (2) representatives per year group, who would be able to connect with all classes within their year group. Historically, communication between FOCUS representatives and class groups has been via WhatsApp.

Get Active with FOCUS!!!

If you are interested in joining the Committee, acting as a Year Group Representative, or wish to volunteer your time, please contact: FOCUSUCPS@gmail.com or join us at the AGM.

An updated list that includes the names of the newly elected FOCUS Committee and Year Group Representatives will be sent out after the AGM on 21 October 2021.

FOCUS COMMUNICATION

Parent Mail Emails

Official FOCUS emails will be sent via Parent Mail, and FOCUS newsletters are due to be published each half term.

Parent-Parent Communication

Parents are an incredible resource for one another, and being connected with your class and/or year group is a great way for parents and carers to support one another, share reminders, and arrange activities or social events not run by the school.

Historically, each class has had a WhatsApp group that includes all parents and carers that wish to be connected to one another. WhatsApp groups (as well as any other parent groups) are not official forms of school communication, and are intended to be used by parents and carers for the reasons listed above.

In an effort to protect everyone, please do not discuss individual children or make comments about staff members. Also, any concerns, complaints or questions about something happening at school should be raised directly with school. The entire UCPS community is reminded to use social media responsibly.

Year Group & Class Representatives

From this year, FOCUS plans to implement a way for parents and carers to hear from FOCUS when help is needed to plan and manage events. In addition to sending information via the FOCUS newsletters, FOCUS needs a way to rally volunteers and support within year groups, and plans to do so with the help of Year Group Representatives.

For more information about the role of the Year Group Representative, please see Page 2.

The goal is to have Year Group Representatives connected to all the classes in their year group. In this way, representatives would have the ability to help organise volunteers to support FOCUS events and connect new families with their child's class group.

FUNDRAISING FOR UCPS

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

Children-Designed Tea Towels

As a fundraiser during the 2020/2021 school year, FOCUS worked with teachers and students to create and sell tea towels decorated with the children's very own self portraits! The tea towels turned out brilliant, and the sale yielded a profit of £1,286.96! Thank you to everyone who helped make the fundraiser a success, and let us know if you would like to help FOCUS do it again this year. Contact the committee!

You Can Help Raise Funds In Many Ways!

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, and there is no direct code to you! 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://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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Parent Mail 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.

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	
THU 21	FOCUS AGM 8p (Zoom Link on Page 1)
MON-FRI 25-29	HALF TERM (No School)

NOVEMBER	
TUE 9	Flu Immunisaton (During School Hours)
FRI 12	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS (No school)
MON 15	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS (No school)
TBC	Community Diwali Event

DECEMBER	
TBC	Christmas Tree Pickup (1st weekend in Dec)
FRI 10	Carols in the Courtyard (starts at 3:15p)
TUE 14	School Discos (During School Hours)
FRI 17	LAST DAY OF TERM (School Dismissed Early)

FOCUS Who's Who

2021 FOCUS COMMITTEE

Chair
Anindita Biswas

Treasurer
Carmelina Capella

Secretary
Sophie Anthony

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

Green Shoots
Leah Loughnane

YEAR GROUP REPS

Reception
Parent 1:
Parent 2:
Acorns
Pumpkins
Sunflowers

Year 1
Parent 1:
Parent 2:
Bumblebees
Butterflies
Dragonflies

FOCUS IS LOOKING FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS (2 PER YEAR GROUP) TO BECOME YEAR GROUP REPRESENTATIVES!

Year 2
Parent 1:
Parent 2:
Robins
Skylarks
Swifts

Year 3
Parent 1:
Parent 2:
Maple
Oaks
Redwood

PLEASE EMAIL FOCUS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING ON THIS ROLE (DESCRIPTION OF ROLE ON PAGE 2).

Year 4
Parent 1:
Parent 2:
Amazon
Nile
Thames

Year 5
Parent 1:
Parent 2:
Fuji
Olympus
Sagamartha

Year 6
Parent 1:
Parent 2:
Antares
Polaris

CONTACT

focusucps@gmail.com