



# Friends of St. Helen's Catholic Primary School

## **FOSH Meeting**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**

**Time: 9 am - 10:30 am**

### **Present**

Eilis Clark – Abdullah (Chair), Ailis Farrell (Vice–Chair), Renata Gawlik (Secretary), Ruby Smyth (Communications Officer), Natasha Brodigan, Blanca Gjeci, Irene Solis–Martin, Alison Greenwood–Kyndt, Chidiogo Edeani, Viveta Kumar

### **Absent**

### **Welcome**

Eilis Clark–Abdullah welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained shortly the purpose of FOSH to our new members.

### **Summary of meeting with School Council**

FOSH held a meeting with the School Council to get ideas on what they would like to spend the raised funds on for the school.

They would like to upgrade especially outdoor activities to have time to spent more quality time outdoor as well as support their learning efforts.

Mainly, we will be talking about upgrading the nature area with a big tidy up – fixing rope swings, broken benches, as well as seeding some new plants. We could reach up to parents in our community with special skills like building, gardening, painting, etc., with support maybe from local Scout groups or St. Bernard School.

We would love to create a sensory garden, a reflection prayer garden with some prayers on the stones made by children from our school, a small stage with paintings on the back wall of the school property.

All these things could be done as a big clean-up event, which we could finish with a fun day for all volunteers with refreshments.

FOSH committee needs to set up a meeting with Miss Keebel and Mrs Miller about the outside area, to discuss when and what we can do.

We also talk about after-school resources. We need to go through all the things that the school has for after after-school club and sort them out to those that we can still use and those that we can donate to charity. Bianca will check that.

We are planning to ask parents for a donation of some resources like: Duplo, board games, puzzles, little prams and dolls, craft stuff, and similar things, which will be listed in good condition without missing pieces or broken.

Elis created a wish list on our Amazon account, and we are adding ideas like big snake ladders or big domino bricks, and similar things to make after after-school club more fun for kids.

We also talk about bringing back some different after-school clubs like art club or dance, or gymnastics club, which will be conducted by external companies with a fee covered at 50% by FOSH and 50% by parents. We need talk closely about it with Liz.

### **Upcoming events**

- **11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Father's Day**

This event will be organized similarly to Mother's Day – treat to be decided. Suggested pizzas.

FOSH will support the school at this event. Our responsibility will be decorating. The picture wall and balloon arch were a quiet success on Mother's Day, so we would like to also do it on Father's Day.

Craft events to provide new decorations, T-shirt garlands, will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, as that was a good way to bring our school community together.

Before the events, FOSH would love to have a meeting with the school staff to have clear communication about it.

After this event, we are planning to send out feedback forms about the Mothers' and Fathers' Days events to know what we should do better in the future.

- **20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Sing a long movie night**

Because this will be our first sing-along movie night, we need to find out about the school hall's capacity in case the weather is not nice. Bianca will check this.

We need to investigate hiring screens 4m x 3 m, which can be used both inside and outside. Bianca will also research it.

If we would like to sell refreshments in case of bad weather and have a movie in the hall, we would like to use the corridors for selling them. We would also like to give people the choice to bring their own refreshments or buy from us.

Refreshments that FOSH is planning to sell will be drinks, sweet cones, and popcorn.

Our chosen movie is Encanto, and Bianca suggested that we can have a real Mirabel at least at the start of the movie, as well as we can create some pictures with her for kids to keep. Liz will be playing the piano. We will need to look into parents who can sing and can 'drag' people to singing.

We could also sell some accessories related to the movie, for example, green glasses.

Proposed time: 5:30 pm – 6 pm.

If the movie is played outside, people should bring their blankets or foldable chairs. If the weather is not good, we can also put some gazebos outside.

The price of tickets will be set after budgeting. Members suggested that the tickets for kids will be up to £5, and ticket for adults will also be set up at a minimum of £1.

- **11<sup>th</sup> July 2025 Summer Fayre & Inflatables**

Eilis contacted companies which are hiring inflatables with all health and safety measures to have them as a preheat for Summer Fayre.

We have already decided that we would like to offer this opportunity to all kids.

Each Year Group will have their time on them free of charge during school hours as a gift from FOSH for all parents' donations and support, as well as a thank you to the kids for their hard work.

After school hours, we would love to keep it on our Summer Fayre – considering a wristband option or pay-as-you-go.

We have been advised that the company has insurance, and it's included in the lease. We are looking into hiring a set of 5 big inflatables. We will need helpers at least 5 (one of each inflatable), but 10 will be the best option. Members agreed that we could offer a free drink and a free wristband for volunteers.

The budget for inflatables was provisionally set at £800.

We also talk about what we would like to do at our summer fayre. In the plans, we would like to have a face painter, pony rides, a mini zoo (Bianca is checking on this), and an ice cream van (Renia will check with Scoops if they have this possibility).

This time we will aloud people to hold their stalls with a set-up fee of £20.

We are planning to have bottle tombola, sweet tombola, raffles – Ruby will start to be in touch with sponsors and looking for prizes.

We think that we could also have BBQ platters and BBQ hampers. Eilis and Renia will look into ideas.

The budget for Summer Fayre was provisionally set up for £1500.

### **Any Other Business**

None

**Next meeting:** Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 9am