

# The Friends of Ivy Chimneys Chair's Report - 2015 - 2016 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

## Chair's Statement

My second year of Chair has been another fun and wonderfully fulfilling one. Meeting new parents, children and making lots of fantastic new friends as well. We have achieved outstanding success this year and it is all through having an amazing team of supporters; organizing committee, sponsors, and all our volunteers.

## Objectives of The Friends of Ivy Chimneys

The objective of the Friends of Ivy Chimneys School is to help advance the education of the pupils in the school in two areas.

1. By developing and maintaining effective relationships with all those associated with the school; staff, parents or pupils.
2. To engage in activities and provide equipment and facilities to the school to benefit pupils in a number of ways.

The Friends of Ivy Chimneys recognise that we have an ongoing requirement to demonstrate that our charitable endeavours are for the public benefit which is a legal requirement for every charitable organisation.

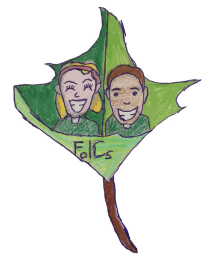
## 1) Developing and maintaining effective relationships.

### 2015/2016

- a) The FolCS flash has gone from strength to strength and has been very positively received. 9 were produced in this academic year and the feedback was extremely positive on how it has kept the parents informed. It was found, however, during a small playground survey that some people didn't read it as it was too small on their mobiles to read the PDF.
- b) FolCS Drop-in sessions have also been very popular and gave people a regular time to get together and discuss the events as well as progress on projects.
- c) Wendy was only able to attend one staff meeting in this academic year but as more points and conversations with the staff have come about, it is a very effective way of connecting with the staff without interrupting their working day.
- d) We worked further during this academic school year with the school council and this proved to be an amazing success. Using them to get the children's opinions and thoughts on projects and assistance.

So many of you have given us such positive feedback on the above ventures and have told us that you now feel really included and much more informed on what the FolCS are doing and how you can be involved.





## **2015/2016**

Following the positive feedback we will continue to:

- a) Publish the FoICs Flash. Going forward it will be produced directly onto a webpage and then the link sent to parents. These will enable everyone to see the text more effectively on their mobile phones.
- b) Have FoICs Friday Drop-ins,
- c) Attend the occasional staff meeting. Wendy is look to improve the regularity in which the FoICS attends these meetings.
- d) Attend the school council, this for the coming year will also be a priority to work with them more.

In addition to this we are looking into an app called Classlist that could be used by volunteers to help communicate with their class. It would require all parents to sign up and an allotted 'Class Rep' to manage per class but there are lots of other applications it can be used for as well as communication that also benefits parents. Wendy will look into developing this further into the academic school year dependent on feedback,

To further improve the communication we launched:

### **[www.foics.org](http://www.foics.org)**

I was able to investigate the numbers of individuals who are using the site. Unfortunately, I have only been able to get the figures for the last three months rather than the last year, but, they are interesting nonetheless. Figures are taken from 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016 – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

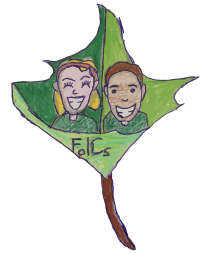
- ✓ Good Percentage of new users
  - 60% in the last 3 months with 50% of the users in the last month being new.
- ✓ Over 1 minute average on the site therefore holding attention – good proportion.
- ✓ 300 Users, 60% new
- ✓ View on average 2.5 pages
- ✓ Over a minute
- ✓ 50 / 50 split on mobile and desktop
- ✓ Of the mobile use 81% is iPhone, 18% android phone and less than 2 percentage Windows phones.
- ✓ Gender split is 45% Female and 65% Male

Wendy to consider these statistics to find if we are hitting are target audience, we need a new strategy or understanding what other communication methods people may be using in not the website.

### **Daytime Committee Meetings**

Last year we did hold three of the committee meetings during the day and we had less turn out than we would during an evening meeting. It was particularly difficult for the teaching staff to attend these events. With this mind the committee meetings will be moved back to an evening schedule and we will concentrate on the FoICS Friday events to communicate to those who can only come during the day time. This, however, is always open to review, dependent on the availability of the current committee members.





## Who is on the Friends of Ivy Chimneys

Membership of the Friends of Ivy Chimneys is open to a section of the public - parents, guardians or carers of any pupils currently attending the school, teaching and non-teaching staff currently employed by the school and any person over the age of 18 wishing to offer appropriate support or help to the school who is accepted by the committee as a Member.

Chair – Wendy Adams  
Vice Chair – Belinda Lockett  
Treasurer – Simon Graham  
Secretary – Maria Surman  
Teacher Liaison - Andy Jones

Changes to the team

Belinda Lockett and Katie Hughes are to step down as Vice-Chair and Maria Surman is to step down as Secretary.

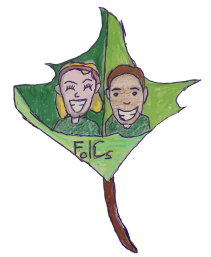
Special thanks go to Andy Jones who will remain in his current role as Teacher Liaison and to Simon Graham who will remain in his role as Treasurer. Thank you for your continued input, support and guidance. If you are a member of the teaching staff and would like to work with Andy and us we really welcome your support.

### **Nominations to the committee**

I want to welcome Lorna Newcombe onto the committee as Vice-Chair. She will be working alongside Wendy and take on the signatory role from Belinda. Lorna has become an established and valued member of the team in the last year and it with great pleasure that I welcome her as a committee member.

In addition, I am pleased to also welcome, Emily Warner, who is one of our new reception mums. She has kindly agreed to take on the role of secretary. Writing and producing our minutes to ensure they are received by everyone in a timely manner to action items from the meetings.





## 2a) Engage in activities

Throughout 2015/16 we coordinated and supported particular fund raising events and activities, please find below a list:

- ✓ 200 Club
- ✓ Phonics Morning
- ✓ Christmas Craft Fundraiser – supported by Fat-Chilli
- ✓ Beetle Drive
- ✓ Family Portrait session
- ✓ Charity Smarties Tube
- ✓ Easter Raffle
- ✓ Dads at school Day Refreshments
- ✓ New Parents meeting - refreshments Summer Fayre
- ✓ Ice Lolly Sales
- ✓ Daytime committee meetings
- ✓ Movies & Munch
- ✓ Quiz Night
- ✓ Christmas Fayre Poster Competition
- ✓ Christmas Fayre
- ✓ FoICs Logo Competition
- ✓ Easter Disco
- ✓ World Book Day Refreshments and Costume Competition Prizes
- ✓ Ladies Pamper & Shopping Night
- ✓ Summer Disco
- ✓ FoICs Friday Drop-ins
- ✓ Summer Fayre Poster Competition

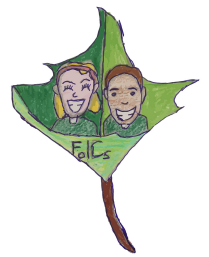
Additional funds and particular thanks can be given to Montagues of Epping (banners and fayre advertising) for their sponsorship contributions, matching contributions, and additional monies from The Giving Machine.

For how much each of these events raised please refer to the treasurers report.

To build on the success of the previous events and incorporate new ones please find a list of what actives we will schedule for 2016/2017. For a comprehensive list including dates of event please see the website [www.foics.org](http://www.foics.org)

- ✓ 200 Club
- ✓ Quiz Nights, Autumn & Winter
- ✓ Christmas Fayre
- ✓ Summer Fayre
- ✓ Summer Disco
- ✓ Charity Fundraising Event
- ✓ Christmas Craft Fundraiser – supported by Fat-Chilli
- ✓ Dads at school Day Refreshments
- ✓ FoICs Friday Drop-ins
- ✓ Daytime committee meetings
- ✓ Movies & Munch
- ✓ Ice Lolly Sales
- ✓ Christmas Disco
- ✓ Phonics Morning
- ✓ Easter Raffle
- ✓ Easter Disco
- ✓ World Book Day Refreshments and Costume Competition Prizes
- ✓ New Parents meeting - refreshments
- ✓ Summer Fayre Poster Competition





## 2b) Provide equipment and facilities to the school to benefit pupils in a number of ways

- Resurfacing of the KS1 play area with an all-weather surface at a cost of £19,000. The invoice has yet to be submitted and will be settled in the 16/17 financial accounts. This has now enabled all the children across the school year groups to have access to a play/climbing frame throughout the year.
- £2,910 contribution towards School journeys and trips for every child.
- Microphone and speaker system was installed and paid for in the financial year 15-16.
- £2,000 contribution to technology equipment and soft furnishing for the redevelopment of the IT room into a library and breakout space. This project has now been completed and the final invoice will be paid this financial year 16/17. Items purchased were the write on tables and fun stools, the TVs to enable the children to AirPlay their work from the iPads to the screens so that their peers can view their work more effectively.
- Promise to purchase 5 iPads for use by the SenCO team. This has yet to be paid for and will be settled in the 16/17 financial accounts.
- Chocolate gift provided at Christmas and Easter for every child attending Christmas/Easter Discos.
- 1 replacement gazebos for Summer fayre
- Year 6 Leavers Gifts
- Christmas Crackers (for every child in the school, at the Christmas lunch)
- Prizes for the best dressed at the World Book Day Competition.

### Projects to support for 2016/17

- £10 per child, towards school trips/educational visitors to school
- Year 6 Memory Books
- Christmas Crackers (for every child in the school, at the Christmas lunch)
- Prizes for the best dressed at the World Book Day Competition.

Full discussion and agreement of future spend will happen during the AGM.

Thank you for everyone's support in the past year and we look forward to working with you again this coming year. We have lots of exciting events and projects to support and can't wait to see the children faces.

Wendy Adams  
Chair, Friends of Ivy Chimneys School

