

2024 / 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARED BY

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Arete Sakellariou*

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Overview

Welcome to the Friends of Poplar Farm School (registered charity number 1208009)'s Annual General Meeting report, a testament to our year of fundraising and donations to Poplar Farm School. This report outlines our accomplishments, financial transparency, and future ambitions.

At the point of this report, Friends of Poplar is comprised of a Chairperson (Gemma Bryant), Secretary (Kelly Blake), Treasurer (Arete Sakellariou) and Committee Member (Tina Evans)

We are a registered charity, with a charitable purpose as defined within the Charities Act 2011. We also operate in line with our constitution, as provided by Parent Kind, of which we are members.

A Year in Review

FOP has delivered a full schedule of events throughout the 24/25 academic year, with lots of success. As a group of volunteers, we continue to grow and develop, learning to adapt to the needs of the school and our new charity status requirements, all whilst delivering a combination of fundraising events and experiences for the children of Poplar Farm.

This year saw our first cohort of Year 6 pupils, marking the first time the school has been at full capacity. It was an honour to work with the staff and children this year, in marking this milestone and celebrating our first group of Y6 moving up to secondary school, and establish a new series of traditions including; leavers hoodies, Y6 parade, autograph books and more.

FOP has also had its first feature in the PopPod Podcast, following the successful delivery of the Colour Run. It was great to engage with the wider school community and share a glimpse of the behind the scenes running of these events. We hope we can share more with the school community in this way again in the future.

As we enter this coming academic year, we will be looking ahead to bolstering our volunteer group and boosting the FOP community, as we prepare to say goodbye to some of our longest and most reliable volunteers as their children have moved up to secondary school. We will also be exploring our events calendar and looking to make changes and improvements, whilst also looking to deliver new and exciting events as appropriate.

Events Analysis

- The Colour Run , a huge milestone in the FOP calendar. An event that brings together pupils, families, staff and FOP in a big celebration all whilst raising lots of funds. This event seems to be a firm favourite across the board and something the children in particular look forward to. Improvements were identified off the back of this year, and we hope to apply these successfully in the future.
- We will continue to explore the benefits of re-cycling and fundraising, with the continued success of our 'Decluttering Event', we will explore ways to engage with the wider community to maximise this event and others. After a drop in the monetary donation rate, we need to explore how we can make the most of this event in the future.
- The launch of our first Year 6 Leavers Hoodies, was a huge success. Offered in Green for daily wear and a range of colour for PE days, this was well received by both parents and children. Not only a great keep-sake, but a nice way to celebrate children in their last year of primary school.
- Spending money on experiences continues to be well received, the ice cream man and the pantomime, to name a few, brought the children a lot of joy and parents could see where their funds were being spent.

We are starting to encounter some persistent challenges with the delivery of events, that we are looking to remedy for the upcoming academic year. These challenges include but are not limited to the following;

- Lack of volunteers - the number of active volunteers seems to have reduced considerably, which means the delivery of events and the general running of the organisation can sometimes be strained.
- We experienced our first big clash of events, with the launching of a sponsorship event in conjunction with the colour run, prompting us to change the date to minimise the impact on the success of the event.
- The volume of students and the now wider age range, is presenting a new series of challenges as our audience is now so much bigger and with varying engagement expectations. What is suitable for EYFS & Y1, isn't always appealing to Y5&6, as such consideration needs to be given here.
- We had hoped to explore other means of fundraising, through bid-writing. However, this didn't see much progress this year and I think it will be imperative for this coming year, if we are to be supporting large scale projects like the Pop Bus.

FUNDRAISING SUMMARY

Financial Overview

Opening Balance: £6,713.31
Total Funds Raised: £5,448.57
Total Other Income: £2,177.17
Total Costs Incurred: £611.46
Total Event & Activity Spend: £1,778.12
Closing Balance: £6,165.86

This reflects a strong financial position, with successful fundraising and strategic spending throughout the year.

Top 3 Income Streams

Colour Run £1,470.50
2026 Y6 Leaver's Hoodies (parent contributions) £1,287.00
Asda Cash Pot £1,083.35

These standout contributions enabled us to fund joyful events, leavers' celebrations, and meaningful school support.

Top 3 Expenditure Areas

Christmas Panto £1,797.60
Colour Run £932.09
Christmas Gifts £640.45

These reflect our commitment to creating magical experiences and inclusive celebrations for all pupils.

Additional Fundraising/ Event Highlights

Popfest Ice Cream Treat: £491.00
Wrates School Photo Commission: £261.28
LotterySK: £431.00
EYFS Cake Sale: £214.89
Parent Donations: £325.39

These contributions showcase the generosity and engagement of our school community.

All items purchased directly support our charitable objectives: enhancing school life, celebrating pupils, and building community.

We continue to invest in events and initiatives that bring joy, connection, and opportunity to every child.

FINANCIAL REFLECTION

As we close the books on 2024–2025, we do so with deep gratitude and pride.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to give back **£4,900**, which funded magical experiences and meaningful moments for every child.

From the Christmas Panto (**£1,797.60**) and Christmas Gifts (**£640.45**) to Popfest treats (**£491.00**) these donations brought joy, celebration, and connection across the school.

We also supported our Year 6 leavers with autograph books, party catering, and time capsule refreshments, ensuring their final memories were filled with warmth and pride.

And with a **£1,168.50** donation to the school, we've helped strengthen the popbus project progression and wider learning environments suitable for all.

Thank you for your time, your trust, and your tireless support. Together, we've built more than events — we've built a community that celebrates every child and uplifts every voice.



The Year Ahead ...

As we approach the 25/26 academic year, we find ourselves looking to reinvigorate the way in which FOP operates. With the school at full capacity and after a long period of learning and development, we need to direct this knowledge into stabilising our group through volunteer pools, implementing processes and reviewing the events calendar.

As we begin to say goodbye to integral volunteers over the next few years, as their children graduate the school, our attention needs to focus on bolstering our volunteer group and ensuring we have a strong team across all year groups to ensure the steady and consistent delivery of events.

As we navigate changes to our committee structure and our volunteer pool, we will be looking to expand our fundraising opportunities through bid writing, grant applications and exploring other third party schemes like the Asda Rewards, Easy Fundraising and lottery schemes. These areas require minimal resource from a volunteer and parent perspective but can bring in considerable funds to support our projects.

For the 25/26 academic year, we have a renewed focus on the delivery of the PopBus project, and will be focussing our efforts on raising funds specifically for this project. Now that we are a registered charity, we have more opportunities available to us, in terms of obtaining grants and donations.

Events to watch out for; Christmas Raffle, Christmas Disco, The Colour Run, The Pantomime, £26 for 2026,

A note to parents, carers & staff...

"We want to express a huge thanks for your continued support of Friends of Poplars' fundraising efforts. Your presence at our events and your dedication to volunteering make a world of difference to our organisation. Not only raising essential funds but also creating a sense of community that enriches our school. We would love to build an even stronger relationship with our parents and carers, and would welcome any feedback, ideas and support you would like to give. Simply email fop@poplarfarmsch-cit.co.uk and let us know your thoughts! We can't wait to share another academic year of fundraising with you and your children"



A word from our volunteers

I like helping because i've made extra friends in FOP and get to spend extra time with my son at the events

As my time with FOP comes to a close, after 7 wonderful years. I wanted to express how profoundly rewarding this experience has been. Contributing directly to the school community has brought me immense joy and a deep sense of fulfilment. Seeing tangible results of our collective efforts - from successful events to the lasting memories created for all students - has been truly amazing. It has been a unique privilege to work alongside so many dedicated parents, family members and teachers. Above all, I am grateful for the opportunity to have met and collaborated with such an enthusiastic group of fellow FOP members. Thank you for the memories, laughter and the chance to have made a difference together.

It has been so much fun volunteering at events, and being a part of the 'other side' of things. Watching my child enjoy the events we put on, but also seeing them make friends with other FOP children is lovely.

I started as I was not always in a position to contribute financially, so volunteering I felt I was still supporting the cause.

Its also enabled me to feel more involved in the kids school life ... to be part of events like experiencing the kids reactions at the panto and seeing them enjoy the disco first hand.

As a full time working parent, i'm not always able to attend school events or be present during the school day - contributing to FOP gives me a meaningful way to stay connected and make a difference.

Supporting FOP allows me to show my commitment to the school community in a way that fits round my work and personal responsibilities.

Its a flexible and rewarding way to help create opportunities and enrich the school experience, not just for my own child but for every child at Poplar Farm.

Friends of Poplar - Committee Structure

Our Friends of Association is defined by a clear structure, in order to ensure the smooth running of the group. As you will note, there are changes to this year's structure, to reflect changes that have occurred within FOP. This year will see our numbers reduce significantly and to ensure the structure of the our FOA remains manageable in the long term we have made the decision to operate a structure as outlined below.

Chairperson

To lead the committee, ensuring the FOA is run in line with its constitution and according to the wishes of all members.

Secretary

To ensure the FOA runs smoothly and efficiently through the preparation and organisation of the committee's paperwork and communications.

Treasurer

To manage and control FOA funds according to the wishes of the committee.

Committee Members

To ensure the smooth running of the FOA in line with the constitution through voting to pass or reject motions put to the committee, typically in regards to spending

Volunteer

To support the FOA through the dedication of time and resources. Putting into fruition plans and providing feedback on plans and ideas.

The Community

All staff, parents, carers, family and friends are considered part of the FOA family. Through the participation of events, sharing of opinions, all of this contributes to the success of FOP.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report for 2024 -2025.

Please take some time to consider if you could contribute your money, time or ideas.
All contributions are very much appreciated!



Volunteer at future events or attend our regular planning meetings.

Follow us and interact with us on Facebook: @FriendsofPoplarFarm School

Sourcing great Raffle Prizes or by donating goods for activities/ stalls/ raffles.

Donate at our various events throughout the year – every little helps and goes a long way towards us achieving our fundraising goals.

Approach your employer about match funding or sponsoring one of our events.

Interact with Dojo posts and provide us with feedback for the future!



easyfundraising

Sign up to Easy Fundraising, earning money for FOP on your everyday online purchases



STIKINS®

Order your child's name labels through Stikins quoting our school fundraising code 36205.



Buy tickets for LotterySK, for every £1 you buy, 50p is donated to FOP and be in with a chance to win some brilliant prizes.



Bring your unwanted clothing items to our biannual 'Bag 2 School' collections, for every kilo of weight collected we receive funds.



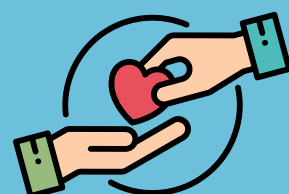
Buy tickets for The Parents Lottery, and be in with a chance of winning prizes, whilst also supporting the school with funds raised.



Order your child's name labels through Tiger Tags quoting our school fundraising code 5121



Make a regular or one-off donation using our payment bank details shown below:
Account Name: Friends of Poplar Farm School
Account number: 74489368
Sort code: 30-99-50





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