



# Friends of The Discovery School

FODS NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2023

A warm hello to all our Children and Parents / Carers!

We have some new FODS committee members this year, as well as more exciting updates on how our funds are being used, what we hope to achieve in the next year, and (Most importantly) how you can help us to reach those targets!

## Introduction to your new PTA Chairs

### Welcome from Selina and Sophie,

We are both very excited about volunteering for this role and becoming the chairs of the committee. Our goal is to help support the operation of the charity and the effective planning for all the new and exciting events throughout the year. We aim to continue to raise the all-important funds to support the school, the teachers and the children.

We both have children within the school and by carrying out this role, with the help of the committee and volunteers, we feel we are contributing to the memories of our children's school lives!

## How our funds are being spent?

Over the past few years, we have proudly donated nearly **£70,000** to the school. This has funded the supply of 30 iPads, outdoor play equipment, sound & lighting rigs for the school production and the adventure trail.

This year we reached our target to raise **£10,000** to put towards an exciting new all-weather **MUGA sports pitch** for the children of the school that will be installed around Spring 2023. This will benefit the children by providing them with a suitable place to play sports all year round.

As well as this, we pay for a variety of small gifts and activities for the children to enjoy throughout the year – including a Christmas pantomime and leavers gifts. The new starters in Year R also receive a small gift at the start of term to help them with their transition into school life.

Our team of volunteers can provide all this by organising a range of fundraising events throughout the year – including school fairs, book sales, raffles, quiz nights and other family events.

## What are the PTA Goals for 2023/2024?

This year we are aiming to raise additional funds for the completion of the all-weather **MUGA sports pitch**.

We will also be working towards supplying a new **'Reading Hut'** for the children to enjoy. A **'Reading Hut'** will be an essential permanent learning space, providing a private, playful area for the children to develop a passion for literacy and a desire to read for pleasure.

## How can you help?



### Join the Committee

Be part of an important friendly team! By joining a committee like this one, you'll be part of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee, which aims to create a culture that values everybody and tries to develop a research and school environment that is fair, transparent and accessible. Without a committee, the PTA would not be able to continue. This does not require a lot of your time – we meet a few times a year, have fun organising and communicate via WhatsApp.



### Donate your Time

You could help by selling raffle tickets, set up for events, run a stall, paint props, or come to a meeting to help us plan the next event! Do you have a professional skill that could help us out? Every little helps. You don't even have to come into the school – many of our tasks can be done at home.



### Attend our Events

You can help by attending our exciting Events, which we plan for our community! Come and enjoy – buy raffle tickets – support our fundraising efforts simply by taking part and having fun!

## JOIN THE TEAM AND GET INVOLVED!

We are always looking for volunteers and committee members to help make all our work possible.

This does not mean attending every meeting and volunteering for every event  
- we would benefit from 10 minutes to 2 hours...There are many ways to help.

If this is something you would like to get involved in, please send over your contact details to [discovery.fods@gmail.com](mailto:discovery.fods@gmail.com) so that we can contact you regarding future events!

## Current FODS Committee Members

**Chairperson - Joint** - Sophie Elphick and Selina Birch

**Vice Chairperson** - Sarah Brett

**Treasurer** - Steven Clack

**Secretary** - Joanna La Roche

**Vice Treasurer** - Claire Caplan

**Catering** - Neve Smith

**Committee Members** - Sarah Mason, Gill Catt, Sarah Palmer, Alison Stannard, Marc Sargent, Suzi Stew and Amy Russell.

If you would like more information about getting involved with the PTA or have any questions in this welcome pack or upcoming events – please get in touch: [discovery.fods@gmail.com](mailto:discovery.fods@gmail.com).

We look forward to meeting you all soon!

Kindest Regards  
**Selina and Sophie**