

FOSS Newsletter

September 2026



Friends of Swaythling School

Get involved, come to our AGM!

FOSS is for you, and every parent, guardian and friend of Swaythling school. When your child joins Swaythling, you automatically become a member of Friends of Swaythling School (FOSS), our school's parent and friends association. We believe every parent and carer has something to offer and that together with the amazing staff team, we can make a real contribution to the experiences and opportunities they have while they are at Swaythling.

Over the years, FOSS has raised money for all sorts of things including: numeracy day, new playground paintings, new books for the library, forest school storage, gardening equipment, Year 6 end of year trips and experiences, Christmas presents for every child, hatching chicks, and theatre visits into school for all children to enjoy.

FOSS regularly organise a range of events during the year to fundraise, including fairs, discos, gift shops, seasonal celebrations, cultural food events, and cake sales. But we can only do this with your help!

Whether you want to stand for committee, volunteer to help at an event, or let us know what sort of events you'd like us to organise, please come to our **AGM on Tuesday 29th September in the school hall, at 3.15pm, immediately after school. The AGM should take no more than 15 minutes. FOSS will be serving refreshments and there will be an opportunity to buy pre-loved books and uniform.**

The AGM (Annual General Meeting) is the formal meeting of the FOSS, where the committee members report back to you, our members, about the activities they've run throughout the year, and where the election of the new committee happens. You can read the Annual Report for 2025/6 attached to the end of this newsletter.

The committee is made up for the Chairperson (who chairs all FOSS meetings), a Vice-chairperson (who helps and can stand in for the chairperson), the Secretary (who records all decisions taken at meetings), the Treasurer (who looks after the money) and up to five other committee members who help run FOSS. The committee can also co-opt people into the committee during the year and set up sub-groups to help organise activities or events. The committee meets formally every month and uses WhatsApp to discuss activities every week.

Nominations for committee should be sent in advance of the AGM for anyone wishing to stand as an

Officer or Ordinary Committee Member using the nominations form at:

<https://forms.gle/wRYSpKkaQTaDVUP19>

In addition to formal committee roles, we always need people to take on small volunteer roles such as:

- *Year group volunteer* - you would be responsible for forwarding all FOSS communications to your year what's app or other social media group, a few minutes at most every week
- *Pre-loved uniform volunteer* - about an hour a week, you would be responsible for keeping the pre-loved uniform in good order, help run seasonal promotions
- *Bake sale co-ordinator volunteer* - if you like baking and would like to help co-ordinate our marvellous home bakers, then this might be the role for you. You might need to spend an hour or so in the run up to each cake sale (approximately four times a year)

- *Stores volunteer* - if you like creating order from chaos, this might be the role for you! FOSS has a store which can get a bit out of hand from time to time, especially before and after our Christmas and summer fairs!
- *Raffles & lotteries volunteer* - this role takes a few hours before and after our main fairs in the winter and summer when we run our big raffles but otherwise we'd leave you alone!
- *Social Media volunteer* - if you love getting a message out, we'd love to hear from you!
- *Raffle prizes volunteer* - do you like talking to people, can you get them to part with prizes? Come and help the introverts on committee by hustling raffle prizes for us!
- *Grants volunteer* - FOSS has applied for grants successfully in the past but committee members often don't have the time to find out what's available. If you like digging around online, this might be the job for you!
- *General volunteer* - if you don't think you can commit to a role but would like to be able to help out as and when you can, choose this: we'll add you to our volunteers group and contact you when there are opportunities to volunteer

You can volunteer for any of these micro-volunteer roles using the same form:

<https://forms.gle/wRYSpKkaQTaDVUP19>

If you are unable to attend the AGM due to work or other commitments, you can still stand for a committee position or volunteer for a micro-role.

If you want to find out more information about being on committee or a volunteer please email us at

foss@swaythlingprimary.org

We look forward to seeing you on 29th September!

2025/6 FOSS Committee

facebook

Log in



Friends of Swaythling School

Friends of Swaythling School (FOSS)

Private group · 73 members

Join Group

Facebook

FOSS has its own Facebook page to make it easier to find what FOSS is up to. To join the group go to:

www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofswaythingschool/

Don't forget the school also has its own Facebook page which has lots of useful info and announcements:

www.facebook.com/groups/568748569917125

Raise money for free!

Last school year family & friends raised an extra **£161** without spending a penny more by using Easyfundraising when online shopping.



You can download an app onto your phone or a widget for your computer which will pop up every time you visit on a website which is eligible for a donation. Get the app/widget at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/swaythlingprimaryschool/>

Don't forget to tell your friends and family as well – every penny counts 😊

Donate directly to FOSS

If you are lucky enough to be able to make one-off or regular donations to FOSS, you can choose what you would like your donation used towards on this form:

<https://forms.gle/XpgsTkaohf3jonFQ8>

If you are a taxpayer, you also register for GiftAid, as a registered charity we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated.

Contact us



foss@swaythlingprimary.org



www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofswaythingschool/

Friends of Swaythling School

Annual Report September 2026



Chair's Report

Thank you everyone for attending this year's Annual General Meeting.

This past school year we were able to raise £4,560 before expenses from a variety of events, donations and contributions FOSS receives as being a registered charity. We hope that the pupils enjoyed attending and taking part in the variety of events we held.

Friends of Swaythling School (FOSS) is a charity that exists to support the school in order to provide resources and experiences for the children. As a committee, FOSS remains dedicated to creating exciting opportunities for the children and to foster a community between parents and carers of the children whilst they are at Swaythling Primary.

Over the last school year we were able to provide the children with annual experiences such as school theatre performances, Christmas books for all the children, year R hatching chicks, leaver's T-shirts for all year 6s, sensory room. We have also funded forest school equipment, English resources, numeracy day and numeracy resources.

We have funded these events by holding a variety of events for the children to attend such as the Christmas fair, Glow Disco, Great Swaythling Bake Off, Swonka Bars, Half-term doughnuts and Frozen Friday Ice lollies. We also ran our Mother's Day and Father's day shop with good success. We attended both Sports day and provided refreshments, our pre-loved uniform shop also did well and provided families with much needed uniform.

It is with regret that I am stepping down as chair and from FOSS due to on-going work commitments, I am so pleased to have been part of FOSS over the last three years. I am still keen to be a part of volunteering at events and to support FOSS.

As part of the AGM today, we will vote in the FOSS committee for the school year 2026/2027, with roles covering the Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and general committee members. There is also the opportunity to sign up for a volunteering role which helps to support the committee planning and hosting events throughout the year.

It is so important to have people to run the committee and the more people we have the more the workload is shared between us all. It would not be possible to plan and run these events without the generosity of your time which ultimately benefits all our children as pupils of Swaythling Primary. If you are thinking about putting yourself forward, for any of our roles please don't be shy! Also if you are having doubts about the time involved our motto is 'give what time you can', it all helps and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for attending and if there are any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you,

Ceri Cox

September 2026.

Treasurer's Report

Below are the accounts for the 2025/2026 academic year. Income was approximately £4.5k and expenditure (grants to the school and expenses for running events) came to £3.8k, leaving an in year balance of £683.

Once again we funded a theatre company visit to the school, a book for every child at Christmas, the hatching eggs in Year R and the year 6 leavers t-shirts and ice-creams. This year we also were able to fund a numeracy day for the whole school and a book for each incoming 26/27 year R pupil. We have committed funds for new English and maths resources, storage for the forest school, benches for the playground, enhancements for the sensory room and the playground to the tune of a further £3,500. This leaves a free, uncommitted bank balance of £3,000 to take into the 2026/27 school year.

Every Little Helps

In the last school year you raised almost £135 at no cost to yourselves while online shopping, so I would urge everyone to sign up for the service. There is an app you can download onto your phone or a widget for your computer which will pop up every time you visit on a website which is eligible for a donation:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/swaythlingprimaryschool/>

Donations

This year we were very lucky to get £680 in donations from parents giving small amounts monthly to parents' employers giving large one-off donations. We are very grateful for any and all donations received and want to say a huge thank-you to all parents who gave either directly or via their employer. For personal donations, we can also claim back Gift Aid from the government, adding another 20% to all the donations received. You can find the information on how to make a regular or one-off donation and sign up for gift aid on our donation page: <https://forms.gle/7ZSRtnmaVmfdQFCA9>

The summary accounts for 2025/26 are given below.

Isobel Stark, Honorary Treasurer
September 2026

Friends of Swaythling School Summary Accounts for 2025/2026

Monies Bfwd from 2024/25

Bank	£5,938.92
Cash	£ 151.05
Total	£6,089.97

Monies in year 2025/26

Income in year (Banked)	£4,435.69
Income in year (cash)	£ 124.93
Expenses in year	£3,877.69
In year balance	£ 682.93

Monies CFwd to 2026/27

Bank	£6,496.92
Cash (inc floats)	£ 124.93
Total	£6,621.85

Income & Expenditure in 2025/2026

Item	Incoming	Outgoing
Admin		
Lotteries licence		£20.00
Parentkind membership		£171.00
Equipment & stationery		£6.34
Donations & schemes		
Donations	£680.00	
Easyfundraising	£135.68	
GiftAid	£249.25	
Fundraising Events		
Bake-off	£146.20	£29.32
Culture Week Raffle	£39.05	£ -
Discos	£367.00	£170.00
Doughnuts	£416.62	£120.07
Christmas Fair	£1,049.65	£171.08
Father's Day	£204.32	£74.63
House T-shirts	£65.00	£52.85
Lollies & summer refreshments	£669.59	£273.27
Mother's Day	£145.00	£11.00
Swonka Bars	£270.06	£351.40
Pre-loved uniforms & books	£96.25	£-
Items for school		
Christmas Books		£281.47
Hatching Eggs		£285.00
Theatre visits		£1,078.80
Yr6 Leavers T-Shirts & trip		£296.30
Year R books		£49.99
Numeracy Day	£26.95	£435.17
Totals	£4,560.62	£3,877.69