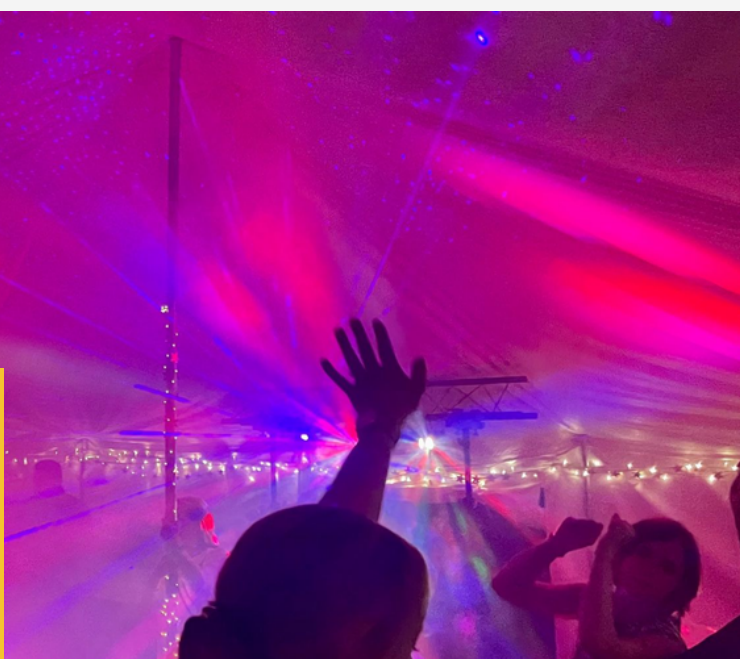




# NEWS

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## HELLO, FROM FOCS

Happy new school year to all the parents, teachers and children at Chrishall school!

In this newsletter, you can meet the FOCS team and find out about all the events we have planned for the term ahead.



Keep in touch and drop us a follow on our socials!



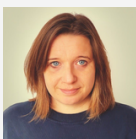
[www.facebook.com/FOCSY](http://www.facebook.com/FOCSY)



[www.instagram.com/focs20](http://www.instagram.com/focs20)



## A MESSAGE FROM KATH



Hi everyone!

I'm Kath Whittaker and I'm so pleased to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Friends of Chrishall School charity.

Firstly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Chair, Kate Holland, for her dedication and commitment. Kate's efforts have laid a strong foundation for our charity's future upon which we will continue to build and thrive.

Huge thanks also to our outgoing FOCS committee members, Gemma Sippe and Sally Lafferty. They have worked so hard to create memorable and fun events for us all to enjoy and we are very grateful for their commitment, creativity and organising skills! A huge welcome also to our new FOCS volunteers: Caitlyn, Alina and Katherine.

I'm a working mum; my sons Ferris and Arlo attend Chrishall school and they absolutely love it. I joined FOCS last year as I wanted to get more involved in school life and get to know all you lovely parents a bit better.

The FOCS charity is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the educational experiences of the children who learn, play and study at Chrishall school. Our aim is to bring together parents, children, teachers and the local community in family-focused events and fun educational activities.

Please do explore our [website](#) to learn more about our upcoming events, and ways you can get involved, or come and say hello to us in the school playground.

Your support, whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading the word, is invaluable and deeply appreciated. Thank you.

*Kath Whittaker*

## YOUR VIEWS



All Chrishall parents are invited to take part in our survey, which aims to gather views on future events and fundraising for the Friends of Chrishall School.

Your feedback will help us tailor our future efforts and planning.

Filling out the survey is simple and hassle-free and should only take a few minutes of your time:

[Complete the survey here](#)

Thank you!



## *Volunteers needed!*

Did you know that you can sign up to be a helper at FOCS events? Find out more at:

[www.friendsofchrishallschool.co.uk/volunteer](http://www.friendsofchrishallschool.co.uk/volunteer)

We are in particular need of photography and event organising skills!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday, 11 October 5-6.30pm**  
School disco

**Thursday, 19 October**  
End-of-term hot chocolates and cookies

**Thursday, 7 December 4.15-6pm**  
Christmas movie night

**Friday, 15 December, 3.15pm**  
End-of-term hot chocolates and cookies

**Thursday, 14 December, 3.15pm**  
FOCS will be at the Christmas Fayre, serving mince pies and mulled wine

## FOCS AGM

**Friday, 13 October 2023, 2pm**

The FOCS Annual General Meeting is in October and all parents are invited to attend.

The AGM is our official annual meeting where new members are welcomed, and the year's events are reported on.

*Save the date!*  
**Chrishfest 2024**  
*Saturday, 6 July 2024*

A fun-filled overnight festival for all the family to enjoy on Jigney's Meadow

## PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

**Donate and buy pre-loved uniform - an easy way to boost the FOCS funds!**

We offer a range of pre-loved school uniform items for sale at very reasonable prices, from £1 to £5.

**Please consider donating any Chrishall Primary School-branded school uniform items that you no longer need to FOCS.**

We can sell them at our events, and it's a really simple way to boost the FOCS funds.

Please go to [www.friendsofchrishallschool.co.uk/uniform](http://www.friendsofchrishallschool.co.uk/uniform) for more information and to view the price list.

## IF YOU WANT TO DONATE DIRECT...

### Quick donations

If you would like to donate to FOCS, the quickest and easiest way is using Stripe:

[Donate](#)

### Other ways to boost the FOCS funds

[Sign up with easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and shop with over 7,000 brands. They will donate 15 per cent of the purchase price to FOCS and it won't cost you anything extra.

[Set easysearch.org.uk](http://easysearch.org.uk) as your default search engine and, by making just 10 searches a day, you could raise around £20 a year for FOCS.



## WHAT IS A FOCS?



No, we don't mean that kind of fox...

FOCS is the 'Friends of Chrishall School'. We are a registered charity, and our mission is to enhance the learning journey of every child at Chrishall Primary School.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, we raised over **£4,800**. and we used that money to enrich learning for the children in a number of ways:

- Reading corners in Potter and Nightingale classrooms
- Play equipment for the Pre-School
- New greenhouse for learning about plants and sustainability
- A special farewell for our class of 2023 students with unique leavers' sweatshirts
- Father Christmas gifted students with Christmas books
- Lollies to keep spirits high on sports day
- Wellbeing and mindfulness signs
- iSing Pop and dance workshops



The new reading corner in Class Potter

## MEET THE FOCS VOLUNTEERS



**Kath Whittaker (Chair):** Maker of video games and Mum to Ferris (10) and Arlo (6). Loves wild swimming, big flat fields and fish and chips by the sea.



**Tor Clark (Vice-Chair):** I'm Hattie, Tilly and James's Mum. Outside of motherhood and work, I love all things sports-related and socialising with friends.



**Nicole Dixon (Secretary):** Mama to Rory (Yr 3) and Isla (Reception). My true passion is all things books; but I also love shopping and styling.



**Alina Gheorghiu-Currie:** Mum to Albert (Class Lowry) with a passion for everything everywhere all at once!



**Ellie Colley:** I have Sam in Year 3 and Joey who has just started in Reception. I am mainly fueled by tea (with a small sugar if you're making, thanks!).



**Jen Millband:** Mum to Ayla and Ceira. Working Mum who loves yoga and dog walking.



**Katherine Rhodes:** Mummy to Beatrix (Year 2) and Clemmie (Reception). Part-time working, dog walking mum-taxi and fan of all things Dorset.



**Lisa Beard:** Mummy to Maisie (8), I love house plants, music, Christmas and gin!



**Rebecca Thomas:** Mummy to Alex (9) and Angus (3), I love Halloween, baking cakes and eating them.



**Caitlyn Briody:** Mum to Wren (Class Potter) and Noah (Pre-School). Fan of pilates and all things wellness, travelling and music.



**Hannah Bannon:** Mummy to Beatrice (7), Max and Margo (2). Working mum with a passion for coffee, books, music, films (and gin!).