Friends of Chase Bridge (FOCB)

CHAIR'S REPORT 2025/26

Annual General Meeting: Friday 2 October 2026 | Registered Charity No. 1014044

Introduction

The 2025/26 school year has been another busy and successful year for Friends of Chase Bridge, with a wonderful range of fundraising events, activities and opportunities for children and families to enjoy.

Throughout the year, our committee, volunteers, school staff and families have worked together to raise funds, strengthen our school community and support projects that benefit the children of Chase Bridge Primary School.

Events and Fundraising

We began the autumn term with our Welcome Discos for Nursery and Reception families, followed by the Halloween Disco, our popular wreath-making evening and the Christmas Fair.

The spring term brought our Quiz Night, the World Book Day Wonder Bar Sale, inspired by Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and our Easter Eggstravaganza.

During the summer term, we supported This Is Me! Day with an International Food Hall, held our annual Bounceathon and finished the school year with our Summer Fair, featuring its first-ever Bubble Show, alongside plenty of games, stalls, sports inflatables, entertainment and activities for families.

Alongside these larger events, regular cake sales, pre-loved uniform sales, ice lolly sales, donations and other fundraising initiatives made an important contribution throughout the year.

Together, these activities helped FOCB raise an incredible £31,452 during the 2025/26 school year.

While fundraising remains an important part of what we do, our events are also about bringing families together, creating memorable experiences for our children and strengthening the sense of community across the school.

Supporting Our School

The funds raised by FOCB have enabled us to contribute towards a wide range of resources, equipment, activities and improvements across the school.

During 2025/26, these included improvements to the bike and scooter shed, resources for subject leads, World Book Day activities, books and library improvements linked to This Is Me! Day, gardening and recycling equipment, and support for Year 6 leavers' celebrations.

In addition, the committee has voted to approve two significant funding allocations:

£8,000 towards improvements to the school's Calm Zone. This funding will support the development of a welcoming and supportive space for pupils, helping to promote their wellbeing.

£6,000 towards improved storage facilities for the school and FOCB. Suitable storage has been a longstanding challenge, particularly for the equipment and resources needed to run our fundraising events.

Some items have suffered damage while stored in the existing sheds, highlighting the need for a more suitable and secure solution.

The approved funding will help provide better storage for both the school and FOCB, protecting valuable equipment and resources, reducing unnecessary replacement costs and making it easier to organise and maintain the materials we rely on throughout the year.

Both allocations have been formally approved by the committee. As the associated costs had not yet been paid at the time of the AGM, the allocated funds remained in FOCB's bank account pending expenditure.

Further details of the year's income, expenditure and funding commitments are provided in the Treasurer's Report.

Looking Ahead

For 2026/27, we hope to build on the success of the past year by continuing our most established fundraising events, such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs, while also refreshing parts of our events calendar. This includes replacing our Halloween Disco with a Neon and Sparkles Disco in November and exploring a new event to replace our Easter Eggstravaganza. We've also introduced a brand-new Tag Rugby Tournament with Orleans Primary School, but much of our event calendar will remain similar to last year. In terms of future funding, we will continue working closely with the school to identify projects and resources that will make a positive difference for pupils, guided as always by our constitution.

We remain committed not only to raising funds but also to providing enjoyable, inclusive events and experiences that bring children, parents, carers and staff together.

We also hope to encourage more members of our school community to get involved, whether by joining the committee, helping at an event, sharing ideas or volunteering behind the scenes.

Thank You

None of these achievements would have been possible without the time, enthusiasm and generosity of so many people.

I would like to start by giving a special thank you to Susie Higgs, who has stepped down as Co-Chair after many years of dedication to FOCB. Susie has contributed so much over the years, from brilliantly running the bar at our fairs to offering support, encouragement and positivity. I'm very grateful for everything she did during our year together as Co-Chairs.

We also said goodbye to Yvonne and Lydia, who have both made wonderful contributions to FOCB. Lydia's beautiful hand-drawn signage has brightened so many of our events, while Yvonne's incredible creativity has brought everything from Christmas grottos and balloon arches to a huge dragon puppet and giant Easter flowers to life. They will be greatly missed.

I would like to thank every member of the FOCB committee, our Class Representatives, all our volunteers and everyone else who has helped with any of our fundraising activities. Your commitment, creativity and willingness to give your time make an enormous difference.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr Ostro, our Headteacher, and Mr Bishop, our Executive Headteacher, for their continued support of Friends of Chase Bridge and our fundraising activities.

I'd also like to thank the teachers and other school staff who have supported our events and fundraising activities throughout the year, often giving up their own time to help. Their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved are hugely appreciated.

A particularly heartfelt thank you goes to Mei-Ling Kan, the school administration team and the premises team, whose help and support are invaluable.

From helping us communicate with families and coordinate events to preparing spaces, moving equipment and dealing with the many practical arrangements involved, they do an enormous amount behind the scenes to help make our activities possible. We are incredibly grateful for their flexibility, patience and willingness to help.

Finally, thank you to all the parents, carers, pupils, local businesses and supporters who have contributed to our fundraising throughout the year.

Whether through volunteering, donating, attending an event or simply spreading the word, every contribution has helped us achieve so much together.

I look forward to another successful year for Friends of Chase Bridge.

Tiffany Patel
Chair, Friends of Chase Bridge
2 October 2026