



Friends @ Belmont PTA
Reg Charity 1172082

Belmont
A special school



Chair's Report for Year Ended 31 December 2023

F@B aims and objectives

The main aims and objectives for Friends at Belmont PTA are to advance the education of pupils in the school by developing effective relationships between staff, parents and other associated with the school and engaging in activities and providing facilities/equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

The F@B Team

All parents/carers/teachers are automatically member of F@B.

Decisions on how finances are raised and spent are made collectively in agreement with the school and F@B team.

We have meetings at least once a month that everyone is more than welcome to attend and our current committee consists of:-

Ruth Hansell and Neil Rushen – co-chairs

Jan Tee – (acting) secretary

Carolyn Jones – treasurer.

Caroline Sexton is employed by the school with fundraising and finance, attends F@B meetings and acts as the main link between school staff, pupils and F@B.

We also have a fantastic group of parents/family members/friends of Belmont who regularly attend F@B meetings and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them all.

Summary of the years fundraisers and spendings

Easter

Last Easter we donated over 170 easter eggs, one for every student at the school, starting a tradition we aim to continue!

Camino de Santiago

In May Neil our Co-Chair walked across the top of Spain on the Camino de Santiago. In total he completed 780 kilometres in 28 days and raised over £2000....but was still beaten in the annual fundraising total by Ruth

Summer Fayre

June saw our second Summer Fayre since covid and our seasoned team were able to bring along all of our usual favourites, the teddy and bottle tombola, hook a duck, price is right, bouncy castle and soft play as well as sports activities to try such as cycling and an inflatable obstacle course. For the second year in a row it was a beautiful day and we had many staff and families attend – a GIGANTIC thank you to you all. Including the Summer raffle we raised a fantastic £3188, beating the previous year.

Sports Day

F@B were present at both Primary and Secondary sports days this year – providing ice-creams and refreshments kindly donated by Wall's ice-cream.

Skiing

In June F@B members organised a ski lesson with some of their children to explore the possibility of offering skiing tasters for Belmont students. These are now in full swing and a number of students have had an opportunity to hit the slopes.

End of year teachers gifts

We spent some money on providing each member of staff at Belmont with a little end of year thank you goodie bag.

Coffee mornings/Saturday afternoon drop ins

Throughout the course of 2023 we continued to support Belmont Schools monthly Saturday afternoon family drop-ins. These events have been invaluable in giving local families with SEND children a welcoming space to relax, talk, share experiences and give advice. As well as providing teas, coffees and cakes F@B members were available to lend an ear and talk about their own experiences with their children at Belmont School and beyond.

Christmas craft fayre

In November we held our second Christmas craft fayre and Christmas raffle. With Father Christmas and his helpers, F@B members, school staff and the Cheltenham North Rotary Club we held a fantastic event with craft stalls, tombolas and the ubiquitous teas, coffees, cakes and chocolate logs.

Father Christmas visit

Father Christmas visited Belmont again this year and was to be found in the school interventions cabin, from where he was able to distribute toys to every Belmont student courtesy of a lovely donation from Lanes Health organised by our ever amazing Jan Tee.

Key stage Christmas gifts

We again donated £2000 to school this year to be divided within each key stage area to be spent on equipment and activities of their choice. We are enjoying hearing about what this money is being spent on including :- play/learning facilities for KS1 and 2, a school trip and more new play facilities for KS3 and 4.

The mini Bus

During 2023 we had many discussions with Belmont School about the possibilities of F@B donating funds towards the purchase of a mini bus. Towards the end of the year a minibus was located and along with Pied Piper and Jan Tee and her family, Friends at Belmont were able to help with the purchase by donating £10,000 towards the costs.

Corporate thank yous

A big thank you to some of the companies who have supported us this year
Lanes Health, Lockton Re LLP, The Entertainer, Elite Facilities Management Limited and Pastel Play Cheltenham (soft play hire).

The Future for F@B

Planning for our Summer Fayre is currently in full swing and later in the year we'll be dragging Santa back from the North Pole to help out at our Christmas Fayre. We're also currently wracking our brains for a challenge to complete in 2024. One adventure in consideration is a Three Peaks Challenge and we're always keen to hear any other ideas either as a group or individual fundraisers that parents/carers or friends could carry out to help support the school. We always welcome new faces and support in any way possible so please do get in touch thefabpta@gmail.com or on facebook Friends at Belmont – Warden Hill.
Lastly – a gigantic thank you to anyone who has supported us either financially or with their time this year – we simply wouldn't run without the support from everybody.

Ruth Hansell and Neil Rushen – co-Chairs of The F@B PTA