

 Friends @ Belmont PTA

 Reg Charity 1172082

**Chair’s Report for Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**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 Becky Baker – co-chairs

Jan Tee – secretary

Faruk Ali - treasurer

Kay Fern 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 2024 and 2025 (up to June) fundraisers and spendings**

**Easter 2024**

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

**Easter chicks 2024**

A Grandparent of the school kindly worked with a work colleague from BUPA care home Richmond Village to make and sell knitted chicks with crème eggs inside. BUPA kindly match funded this – donating a fantastic £600 to the school in total

**Summer Fayre 2024**

July saw our third 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 reptiles. For the third 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 £2466.24, a fantastic event.

**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.

**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 2024 and the first half of 2025 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.

**Cheltenham half marathon**

In September 2024 co-chair Ruth Hansell ran the Cheltenham Half Marathon alongside teacher Emma Hall and two friends raising £1395 for Friends of Belmont. Thanks to all and well done!

**Winter fayre 2024**

In November we held our third Winter craft fayre and 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 ubiquituous teas, coffees, cakes and chocolate logs. We raised £1589.85

**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.

**2025**

**F@B veggie garden**

A new year and with spring brought some new life and ideas. Friends at Belmont funded £500 to the F@B vegetable garden and worked with Men in Sheds to produce a truly wonderful outside space where children now work to grow plants and vegetables (some of which were sold at the recent Summer Fayre! A MASSIVE thank you and well done to Becky Baker for all your hard work with this. Lanes Health were particularly interested in hearing about this amazing project and kindly donated £100 towards costs of running it.

**School chickens**

F@B also donated money towards the cost of updating the chicken coop and an incubator/eggs. We are very excited to announce we have already hatched two chicks thanks to the hard work and dedication from Shannon Storm and Becky Baker. These chicks will live with the other chickens at school and will be enjoyed/looked after by children at the school.

**Senior Sensory Room**

F@B were successful in applying for a grant from Cheltenham North Rotary Club of £500. This money was spent on purchasing a large rotating skateboard to support children self regulate and meet specific sensory needs they may have.

In addition to this F@B donated £684.80 to purchase a large swing for the sensory room and large inflatable pillow – as requested by the Occupational Therapist Elen Lloyd.

**Ofsted celebration**

Following the outstanding inspection from Ofsted in February 2025, F@B funded £275 towards the cost of a visit from Scrubditch Farm to the Belmont Celebration day. They brought sheep, lambs, pigs and goats and these were thoroughly enjoyed by all children who wished to visit and have touch/cuddle!

**Easter 2025**

We again funded Easter Eggs (or appropriate equivalent) for every pupil in school.

**Emergency AGM**

Following the resignation of co-chair Neil Rushen we held an emergency AGM where Becky Baker was nominated and voted in a new replacement co-chair. What an amazing start she has had to being on the board! We can all say just how very lucky we are to have her on the committee and have already seen so much positive change and contribution to our PTFA.

As per the Friends at Belmont constitution – all voted and agreed to also remove Neil Rushen as trustee and signatory of the business account. We now have

Becky Baker

Ruth Hansell

Jan Tee

Faruk Ali

As charity trustees and signatories on the bank account.

**Summer Fayre 2025**

With more staff volunteering than any other year and the introduction of Soak the Teacher! This years Summer Fayre was arguably the best yet! To quote Kevin Day (Head Teacher)

‘Family Fun, Finance and Friendships – Wonderful organisation, Amazing inclusive activities, Record number of ex-students returning to see us, brilliant feedback from everyone.

We raised an incredible £2882.52!

**Corporate thank yous**

A big thank you to some of the companies and charities who have supported us this year

Lanes Health, Lockton Re LLP, The Entertainer, BUPA, Cheltenham North Rotary and Men in Sheds.

**The Future for F@B**

We are very excited to see what the remainder of 2025 has in store for us and have already started exploring what we can spend more money on – outside seating, equipment for independence skills.

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 Becky Baker – co-Chairs of The F@B PTA