

Dear Parents,

## Welcome to **Friends of Blackawton School (FOBS)**

If you'd like to join in, please come to the **AGM**  
**on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**  
**at 7.30pm in the school hall.**

All are very welcome. We'd love to see you there!

### **What is FOBS?**

- The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for Blackawton Primary School.
- It has two primary functions of raising money for the school and creating a forum to participate in the education and well-being of the children of Blackawton Primary School.
- Being involved in FOBS is a great way to get to know other parents, along with the school and its staff.

### **Why is FOBS important?**

*Andrew de Cruz, Blackawton Parent Link Governor, says:*

*"FOBS is part of the nuts and bolts of our school community. Getting involved creates an opportunity to meet other parents and staff and so grow a stronger more supportive community and educational environment for our children.*

*Any further support with the business and events of FOBs not only creates those social opportunities but role models neighbourly collaboration to all our children and, crucially, provides an essential financial lifeline. The fundraising helps enable our school to be successful despite the harsh financial environment confronting all state schools, in which small rural schools like ours are generally the worse hit in terms of funding per pupil. I would thus encourage all parents to be involved in some way - regardless of the level of involvement or help you can manage. Thank you."*

### **What has FOBS achieved?**

FOBS has raised much needed additional funds for the school over the years. Most recently these funds have helped to pay for:

- A new roof for the Forest School shelter;
- A new minibus;
- Outdoor gardens, polytunnel, shed and contemplation tents;
- New iPads for the Accelerated Reader programme;

- Classroom and library books and materials;
- Forest School resources and materials;
- Playground refurbishment and the bin store;
- The Food for Life School Award programme; and
- Leavers hoodies.

FOBS has made an invaluable contribution to the school budget over the years. But there is always more to do, and we need your help.

### **How can you help?**

Every single parent / guardian of a child (from Nursery to Year 6) at Blackawton Primary School is automatically a member of FOBS. You are very welcome in whatever capacity you can help. However small or large, your help would be very much appreciated. You could:

- Attend FOBS meetings and the AGM;
- Volunteer to help with FOBS organisation;
- Support and attend the fundraising events that FOBS runs;
- Use Easyfundraising for your online shopping ([www.easyfundraising.org](http://www.easyfundraising.org)) and raise funds for your school at the same time; or
- Provide a much-needed donation.

### **How does FOBS work?**

- Current FOBS committee roles held as at September 2019: Liz Riley (Chair), Helen Gray (Vice Chair), Raymond Seager (Treasurer) and Emma Parr Ferris (Secretary).
- Meetings are approximately once a month on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening typically, very informal and usually in the pub.
- AGM at the start of each new school year.
- A number of big events during the year (including a fun run, winter festival, curry and quiz night, sports day and summer prom) and supplemented by smaller fundraising events. New ideas are always very welcome.

We hope to see you at the AGM on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm in the school hall.

Thank you for your support.