

**Seasons greetings!** What a half term it's been for everybody. With the dreaded sickness bug causing our disco to be postponed, and the "special visitors" from OFSTED resulting in our Woodlea Wonderland being cancelled, we're certainly ready for the Christmas break! But, in amongst the chaos **we've had an absolute blast!** We enjoyed a lovely evening at our first ever Twilight Market, and our Be Bright Be Seen Discos were AMAZING! We've also had another successful bake sale, organised a free Rainbow Pumpkin trail activity around Bordon over half term, had a huge textiles collection for Bag2School, a record breaking raffle, and joined the local community with a stall at the WBTP Christmas fair.... It's definitely time to crack open the mulled wine!

### Rainbow Pumpkin trail



We were delighted that so many families took part in the free Rainbow Pumpkin Trail over half term. We hope you all enjoyed it. Each child that joined in received a certificate of participation and a bag of sweets in assembly after half term, and were all entered in to a draw to win a treat hamper. Congratulations to the lucky winner! We hope you enjoyed your prize!

### Spooktacular Cakes & Costumes

We had another successful bake sale at the end of last half term, which raised **£209.50**. We were especially thrilled to have so many delicious bakes donated – the most we've received yet! Thank you to everyone who supported the sale. Our next one will be in the spring.



### Bag2school

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection last month. Together, those old textiles raised **£72.00!**

### Twilight Market

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Twilight Market – as it was the first evening shopping market we've done, we were a little nervous! As it turns out we needn't have worried and we finished the evening with lots of happy shoppers and happy stall holders. Our Bag a Bottle stall was a huge hit (thank you to Nikki & Scott) and sold out very quickly!

As you can see from the pictures below, the range of products on offer was amazing, and we felt so lucky to be able to support so many wonderful local businesses. We need to give a **special shout out to Hogmoor Distillery** who not only donated the star prize of our raffle, but also ran a bar along side their shop, and are kindly donating 25% of their bars takings. Cheers!



We are pleased to say that the Christmas market raised **£493.91**.



## Did you know?!?

Here's 5 Facts about FOWS:

- \* **We are a registered charity.** This comes with lots of perks, including being eligible to sign up to fundraising initiatives such as *EasyFundraising.co.uk* and *AmazonSmile*, and accepting Match-funding donations from the employers of any event helpers.
- \* **FOWS is run entirely by volunteers.** The current committee consists of working parents who organise all the events and activities for the school community in their own time. We don't always get it right, but we do always try our best!
- \* **We are a totally separate entity to the school.** We enjoy a fabulous relationship with Woodlea and work together in close partnership, but are in fact two separate organisations. Therefore, if you ever have a question regarding a FOWS activity or event, please contact us directly and we will be happy to help.
- \* **Event volunteers are invaluable,** and we rely on them to make our events happen. Everyone you see helping at a FOWS events, whether parent or Woodlea staff, is doing so in their own time. We are so lucky to have several regular helpers but are always excited to welcome more to the team.
- \* Being a "Friends of" organisation means **anyone who cares about Woodlea is a member of FOWS.** So, parents, staff, grandparents, governors, ex-pupils/parents, and members of the local community are all able to get involved!



Thank you to everyone who bought tickets to enter our Winter Raffle. All prizes have been collected from us and/or been sent home in book bags. Congratulations to all the lucky winners! With over 30 amazing prizes, all generously donated by local businesses, it's no wonder that this terms raffle raised a record-breaking **£440.00!!**

## Be Bright to Be Seen Disco

OMG! What a night that was! Everybody had the best time at our disco and were all still buzzing in the morning. We absolutely loved seeing the children having so much fun. For us, it's what the PTA is all about! We were so proud of the children's behaviour too. FOWS received a lovely email from our DJ the following day, in which he said;

*"I want to mention how impressed I was with the behaviour of the children. Whilst waiting for them all to sign in I had several short conversations with various students and I was overwhelmed by their maturity, confidence and manners. Sometimes at schools, I'll encounter children who are not always being their best selves, but at no point was there any unruly behaviour at Woodlea. Well done to all the children - They were brilliant! "*



The disco raised a fantastic **£384.26**, which has been reserved to buy a hi-vis vest for every child in a key stage. The pupils will wear them when on external visits, helping them to "Be Bright to Be Seen" when out and about with the school.

We're now thinking of excuses to have another... Any ideas?!



## WBTP Christmas Fair

Naomi, Zuzy, Chris & Rachel all had a great day at the WBTP Christmas Fair at the start of the month, and raised **£172.84**. We ran a Lucky Cards Tombola, as well as selling raffle tickets, Christmas puddings and **FOWS Christmas Candles**, beautifully produced by The Ed & Chlo Company. These candles smell gorgeous, & 15% of each sale is being donated to us! Please speak to Zuzy if you'd like one.

Our delicious, **Christmas puddings** have been specially made by a professional bakery with the best ingredients. 100% of the profit is going to FOWS and the good news is.... You can still buy one! They are in stock at The Craft Shed (located behind Dylan's at The Shed) or you can click the link... <https://forms.gle/9iRNXeJWQQBdT96X7>

We are proud to be giving **left over stock to Bordon Food bank**. **Please consider sponsoring a pudding for donation** and to help us support this highly valuable local charity.



**Finally, we want to say a HUGE Thank you!**

Our events rely on the generosity and support of parents, grandparents, staff and friends in the community in order for them to be successful. This term we were truly flabbergasted by the number of people who offered to help at the disco, and despite an initial slow uptake we ended up with a full contingent of helpers for the Woodlea Wonderland, including a record number of school staff volunteers as well as some year 6 superstars and ex-pupils who are now at Oakmoor. We cannot tell you how much this means us. It really very special when so people are willing to come together and get stuck in, helping to create those special memories of primary school that will stay with Woodlea's children for the rest of their lives.

**Thank you so much for your support and enthusiasm this year. Bring on 2023, and the next round of fun, games and organised chaos, all in support of our children and their wonderful school!**