



The Friends of Springfield School



There's so much to tell you I barely know where to begin! There's been lots and lots going on with fundraising and we've had some brilliant successes. All the main highlights are below. Please do like and share our Facebook page and posts – the wider we can spread the word about Springfield School, the better!

If you would like to get involved with The Friends of Springfield School please do get in touch with me at lisa.benson@springfield.oxon.sch.uk. We'd love to have more families involved.

Best Wishes, *Lisa*

Lisa Benson

Jimmy Osmond cooks up a treat for Springfield

Jimmy Osmond may have narrowly missed out on winning Celebrity MasterChef last year but he used his cooking skills to good effect on in March by helping us to kick start a campaign to raise money to buy a new minibus.

Learning how to cook a meal is a key life skill and we work hard with our pupils to enable them to gain the skills that will allow them to live as independent lives as possible. So we thought it would be fun for some of our Key Stage 4 pupils to teach Jimmy how to cook an omelette. Gabby, Theo, Josh, Emily, Matt and Jess donned their aprons and instructed Jimmy in front of an audience of pupils, families and staff. Later in the day Jimmy did an 'eat and greet' show to a paying audience, chatting, story telling and demonstrating some of his MasterChef dishes. Generously, Jimmy is giving all proceeds from the afternoon show to Springfield School a total of £2,057!

The event has also secured lots of publicity for Springfield and our campaign to raise money to buy a new minibus. We were interviewed on Radio Oxford, there's footage on Witney TV and keep your eyes peeled on The Oxford Mail and Witney Gazette for further coverage. What an awesome day it was! Thank you so much to everyone who came, helped and supported!



Marathon runners 'go the distance' for Springfield

We were thrilled to have three runners in the Virgin London Marathon this year all running to raise funds for Springfield. Teacher, Jade Hewlett, smashed her personal target of 4 hours for her first ever marathon and completed the course in 3hrs 49mins. Dad to Springfield pupil Charlie, Darren Hall also took on his first ever marathon to raise money for us. Whereas David Lunt is a veteran marathon runner and has been supporting Springfield for several years. We are so grateful that Jade, Darren and David chose us for their sponsorship and hope they were able to draw motivation from the knowledge that the money they've raised will make a huge difference to our pupils. The final tally is still ongoing but is going to exceed the £3,000 mark! An awesome achievement!





Flying high with support from AirTanker!

AirTanker is a collaborative project between a range of aerospace and engineering companies and The Royal Air Force to build and run the new Voyager aircraft at RAF Brize Norton. Springfield School has been one of their nominated charities for the last year now and the lovely people at AirTanker have been working hard on a range of fundraising activities. On Friday 9th March we were really pleased to welcome John and Lindsey from AirTanker to our secondary site assembly. Pupils interviewed John and Lindsey to find out a bit more about the Voyager aircraft. After successfully negotiating all of our questions John and Lindsey presented pupils with a cheque for £4,010! This is a brilliant sum of money and we are hugely grateful to everyone at AirTanker. Even better news is that they are going to continue to support us for a further 12 months!



Signing Choir puts on a show for Ceva Logistics



Back in March pupils from the signing choir at the Bronze Barrow visited our friends at Oasis, Coast, Karen Millen, Warehouse and Ceva Logistics in Stanton Harcourt to perform some songs that they've been learning. Ceva Logistics have supported Springfield School for several years now and over this time have raised a huge amount of money for us. The signing choir have visited them several times as a way of saying 'Thank you' for their hard work. We performed springtime songs that made everybody smile and tap their toes as the sun shone for us.

Yet again, all at Ceva Logistics showed us fantastic support. There was a collection during the performance that raised £86 and they also handed us £1,000 that they have raised through fundraising activities such as cake sales! Over the years Ceva Logistics have raised more than £12,000 for Springfield School. Just amazing!

Blenheim Palace show their support for Springfield School



Staff at Blenheim Palace chose Springfield as their nominated charity last year. Throughout the last 12 months they've held events to fundraise for us. Jade's class recently paid a visit there to collect a cheque for £1,000. As well as fundraising, Blenheim's Head Gardener, Hilary Wood, is helping with advice for our garden plans at the secondary site at Wood Green. Blenheim staff are also looking to pull a working party together to come and give us a hand putting these plans into action. We are very grateful to Blenheim Palace for their support. Classes regularly visit the Palace as they have given us special permission to visit for free whenever we want!

Cineworld gives Springfield a special treat



Cineworld in Witney offered pupils and their families a chance to see an autism friendly screening of Disney's latest blockbuster, Beauty and the Beast, at a heavily discounted rate. The autism friendly screenings happen once a month on a Sunday morning and offer a relaxed environment where people are free to move around, the lights are kept on low and there will be no adverts or trailers.



Wychwood Brewery lays on a great night to help Springfield

Local brewery, Wychwood, laid on a great night of beer tasting and brewery touring for parents, families and friends of Springfield pupils. This, strictly over 18's, event comprised of a private tour of the brewery and the intricacies of brewing the perfect pint followed by a tasting of some of their best loved ales (much like a wine tasting!). They even laid on a quiz and a raffle for us. All of the proceeds from ticket sales, the bar and the raffle went to Springfield School. It was a great evening with lots of fun had by all. The total amount raised is over £700! We very much hope we will be able to run this event again next year! Hic!

West Oxfordshire Business Awards

This year the Friends of Springfield School decided to enter the West Oxfordshire Business Awards, Charity of the Year Award. The WOBA's, as they are known, are now in their 7th year and provide an opportunity for the very best of West Oxfordshire businesses and charities to receive recognition for outstanding achievements over the past year. We made it through to the final three and attended the gala dinner at a very glamorous Heythrop Park Hotel.

Unfortunately, it wasn't to be our night although we're told that to make it to the final three in our first year of entry is quite an achievement. Maybe next year we'll get our hands on the trophy! Either way, it was a brilliant opportunity to raise our profile amongst the local business community and let them know what fantastic work Springfield does.

Photo by Ric Mellis.



Lloyds Bank get back to nature in Bronze Barrow sensory garden



Lloyds Bank staff from across Oxfordshire have been fundraising for Springfield School for the last year. They've also carried out two volunteer days in our sensory garden at the Bronze Barrow and will be doing another volunteer day in the secondary site garden later this month. We are very grateful to them for their hard work and commitment to the school!

North Oxford Golf Club swings into action for Springfield

The Captain of North Oxford Golf Club, Dave Titcombe, has made us his 'Captain's Charity'. Dave, who's niece Ella, attends Springfield said 'Springfield was the natural choice for me to choose as my charity. I'm thrilled to be able to support the school Ella loves so much'. There's been lots of fundraising activity so far which will culminate in the Captain's Day tournament on 17th June.



North Oxford Golf Club



Find us on:
facebook

www.facebook.com/TheFriendsofSpringfieldSchool



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Total amount fundraised since September 2016.

How do we spend this money?

The money The Friends of Springfield School raise goes towards a variety of equipment, activities and experiences that enrich the pupils education, provide them with opportunities to gain independence and enable them to access the curriculum with greater ease. At present we are fundraising for a new minibus as two of the four we currently have are very much on their last legs. A significant proportion of funds raised will be ear-marked for a minibus, however we will still be providing financial support to the school for a myriad of other items.

£35	=	A whole term's horseriding for 1 pupil
£50	=	A whole box of sensory equipment
£100	=	A Storysack literacy resource
£125	=	The living costs for a member of staff to attend a residential trip with pupils
£350	=	Specialised trike
£500	=	A creative workshop from specialist providers
£1,500	=	New ICT equipment for 1 whole class
£3,000	=	An interactive, wheelchair accessible touch screen
£4,000	=	A specialised chair that gives effective postural support for those pupils unable to support themselves
£8,000	=	The annual running costs for 3 mini buses
£25,000	=	The cost of a new mini bus specially adapted for wheelchair accessibility

What our fundraising buys



★ Get Involved ★

The Friends are a group of supporters who:-

1. provide financial support to Springfield School to enhance the educational experiences of the pupils as a registered charity,
2. organise events that provide social opportunities for the families and the chance to develop mutual support
3. raise the profile of the School and special needs in the local community.

We meet approximately once a month to plan events and enjoy a catch up over a glass of wine. We'd love to have a few more members! We'll be holding our AGM soon and will send out the date over the next few weeks. Please do come along and help support the school. If you'd like any more information, please email: lisa.benson@springfield.oxon.sch.uk