We would never have thought when we sat in school at the AGM last year that the year would have turned out as it did. After a very successful, if a little chaotic Halloween party and Christmas raffle, chocolate tombola and refreshments at the school Christmas productions much of our fundraising activities were put on hold in March. We were able to hold a socially distanced plant sale in the run up to Mother’s Day – which was a fantastic idea from Lisa Bolland – and under usual circumstances I believe could be a real money raiser. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the planned Easter trail put together by Sonja Sedran and Kathryn Fairweather. But this can be put on next year when hopefully we might be back to something like normal. Our biggest fundraisers every year are the Scarecrow weekend and Duck Race – unfortunately both had to be cancelled but the team came up with some fantastic ideas to try to raise the spirits of our families and try to retain the Slingsby community feel while we were in ‘lockdown’. The online scarecrow competition was well received and enjoyed by those families who chose to take part. Despite all families not returning to school we were still able to hold a socially distanced Bag 2 School collection on the Sportsfield with the Sports Club’s permission which was very well supported.

Towards the summer holidays there was a great gulf left by the absence of the Duck Race – I woke up on the morning it was planned for feeling at a loss as to what to do!! But the committee came up with the great idea of keeping the spirit alive with an online decorate a duck competition and sponsored family challenge. These proved very popular especially amongst the younger pupils – Poppy Cooke standing out not only for the amount she and her brother raised but also the fact that they took on a challenge that was difficult for them. These great ideas enabled us to donate a decent amount of money to school over the summer.

We have a Bag 2 School collection planned for November and the school staff have very kindly given up their time and offered to put on a bubble Halloween party for the children in their classes – which I know they’re all very excited about!

I know a few people have felt at times that they have not pulled their weight this year but there has never been a time when I have not felt supported. We are all busy – holding down full or part time jobs, juggling childcare and just living our lives in unprecedented times. I would like to give special mention to Sonja and Mel Staley for all their support over the last two years. They have done a fantastic job – often behind the scenes. Thank you to everyone for your ideas and support over the last two years. Sam Burnett has been amazing over the last few years organising the Scarecrow weekend – it has been a very safe pair of hands to leave the organisation in the hands of!! I would also like to thank the admin staff, teaching and support staff for giving up their time to attend and participate in FOSS events – it is very much appreciated. For a relatively small school we raise a lot of money (I know a number of bigger schools who would be very jealous) and that is all thanks to the commitment of the FOSS committee members and the support of the parents. I know I’m leaving FOSS (after 8 years!) in very safe hands!