

Dear Parents,

Regular communication between parents is important in helping us build a supportive and welcoming school community. Recent data protection changes mean parents now rely on a variety of informal channels to contact each other, ranging from ad-hoc email lists to social media groups on Facebook and WhatsApp. These can work well but raise important concerns over inclusiveness, security and safeguarding - particularly when used to distribute personal data, and exchange information and images about children.

FOSS, with support from the school, has looked carefully at what might serve parent needs best in this area. This year we are re-introducing a new “built for purpose” app called Classlist. This enables parents to find and contact each other securely, whilst giving each parent complete control over what data is shared. Classlist, which is UK-based, holds appropriate security and GDPR certifications and recently won top prize at BETT, the world’s largest education technology event.

Our parent community is of course much more than an online address book. Using Classlist you can set up events; form special interest groups; discuss arrangements for parties or lift shares; find a home for old bicycles or school blazers; and volunteer.

There is even scope for FOSS to raise money through working with local sponsors who support the site, which is completely free to the school and to parents.

We have used this app with success in the past, and we would love to see it develop and grow as more parents use it.

For those of you who have signed up previously, your login details should still be active,. Please check that your details are correct and please add any children that have started at the school in the past year or so.

For those that aren’t already signed up, then we would encourage you to do so as soon as possible, either by following the instructions below or by allowing FOSS to invite you by e-mail (please provide required details below).

**It takes a couple of minutes to get started - first download the Classlist app on iOS or Android, then select “Sutton on the Forest”, and choose what data to share with your fellow parents.**

Any concerns or questions, please ask to speak to a member of FOSS.

Best regards,

FOSS Committee

Name of Child.....Year Group.....

Parent/Guardian e-mail: .....

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