

Fosbrook Folk Education Trust

Providing music, dance and song opportunities for

'YOUNG FOLK' IN THE NORTH WEST

Based at: **Banks Lane Junior School, Hemphaw Lane, Offerton, Stockport SK1 4PR**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You may already know that our organisation run folk education classes at Banks Lane on a Saturday morning. In order to decide if this is suitable for your children it is best if you know something about Fosbrooks initially.

Fosbrook Folk Education Trust has been working in partnership with Banks Lane Junior School for 35 years. The organisation runs weekly classes, music lessons, weekend and holiday residential workshops and performance tours. Fosbrooks has a high profile in the music and dance world and the senior group have an international reputation for their performance skills. The director, Mrs. Austin Strange, has a MBE for her work in folk education.

Several parents have asked for details so that they can decide whether the Saturday class is suitable for their child, so here is some information about the class :-

'Fosbrook's Headstart' is for both boys and girls and it is intended as an induction programme for the senior group. Each child does social dance, instrumental work, step dance and singing. Dance shoes and instruments are loaned to the children initially so nothing special is needed for the first few months. Performance is seen as an integral part of the programme and children are encouraged to perform as soon as possible at the community events which Fosbrook run. This is what happens on a Saturday :

- The children arrive between 9:30 am and 9:45 am. Mrs. Austin Strange does the registrations and collects £4 from each child. Most children bring £1 to buy a snack at the tuck shop.
- At 10am there is a short assembly to give out any notices and then band starts at 10.10am.
- All the children start in the massed band and the youngest ones are taken off straight away to learn the initial skills on the instrument of their choice (either violin or accordion).
- There is a break mid-morning. This is in the canteen. Fosbrooks try to opt for healthy snacks where possible.
- Step dance classes follow the break. The boys do some sword dancing too at this point.
- After dance the children take their belongings down to the hall and join the choir where they sing traditional songs for 20 minutes.
- The final activity is 'praise' when the tutors and senior students 'praise' the children who have done well. The children are encouraged to celebrate their successes but also to use 'growth mind-set' work towards targets too.
- The children are collected by parents at 12:30 pm.

Mrs. Austin Strange is usually around to chat and advise parents who have queries. The school is open in the afternoon for senior lessons and sessions which they do once they have tidied up after the crowd in the morning. The senior students are all very positive and well-motivated young people. They are firm and kind with the younger ones and make excellent role models. Fosbrooks prides itself on having the nicest teenagers in the UK. They really are!

There is usually one social event each half term. The next one is on Saturday 23rd January when it is the 'Burn's Night Silent Auction and Ceilidh Night. If your child opts to join Fosbrooks in the New Year you will receive a flier about this event. We look forward to seeing some of you at this fun evening!

