



Hello and a warm welcome to Friends of Thurlestone School FTS !

For those of you who don't know, **Friends' of Thurlestone School (FTS)** is a registered charity made up of parent volunteers, with the main aim of raising additional funds for the extras that enrich our children's educational experience – often those fun things that make learning more interesting and exciting for all our children. As a Thurlestone parent, you automatically become a member of the FTS, so whether you're new to the school, or you've been with us for a while, it's a great way to meet other parents, have some fun and foster a bit of community spirit!

To find out more, we hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM next week:

FTS AGM – Tuesday 14th September 2021 – 7pm The Village Inn, Thurlestone

We are really excited for this next year and have lots of ideas to take forward. Everyone is welcome, so please come and join us for a glass of wine! If you can't make it in person, we will also send a link out so that parents can join us virtually.

New Committee members for 2021/22

Are you able to take on the role of FTS Chair or Co-Chair, Treasurer or Secretary?

Our current committee members are stepping down, so we're looking for volunteers to pick up the baton this term. Active members of the FTS help plan, organise and run events and activities. This isn't a stuffy club we're running, it's a friendly group of everyday parents who have a skill for organising, the will to make events succeed, and a passion to support the very best learning environment their children could enjoy.

This is a great time to join in, get a full handover from the current team and shape what activities the FTS runs and supports going forwards. Being on the FTS committee is an excellent way to know the school better and create positive experiences for all the children at All Saints. We highly recommend giving it a go and volunteering next week!

Who are we and what do we do?

In normal years, on average we raise £8k-9k a year through events such as our Christmas and Summer Fairs and school discos. In recent years we've used this to fund some brilliant projects including the introduction of Forest School across the entire school, the purchase of all the playground equipment, the refurbishment of the library, a brand new sound and lighting system with staging for school performances, school trips and annual classroom funds for each teacher.

We have one or two FTS Class Reps per class to help promote our fundraising, and a band of other parents who help out with the organisation and smooth running of events and activities. Inevitably each year we lose some of those parents as their children move onto 'big' school, so it's key that we get new parents coming through right from Reception to get involved!

Future plans?

Our focus for this year will be on enhancing the children's experience after a fairly turbulent 18 months. We want the children to have the best possible school social calendar, where they get to build memories and try to get back to whatever 'normal' is. We also want to build on social connections across parents; our school community has changed and we want to help people to connect, to build bridges and to have some well-deserved fun after all that home schooling!

We need you!

We need to recruit new parents to the FTS. The bottom line is that, without a parent body willing to make suggestions, to give some time and their skills, we won't be able to provide those wonderful 'extras' for our kids.

RSVP by Monday PM

Please could you let your Class Rep know by Monday pm whether you are able to join us next Tuesday (we wouldn't want to run out of wine, obviously!). Also, please email us friendsofthurlestonschool@gmail.com - if you would consider being on the core committee or if you can offer any time or have specific skills which we might use!

Kind regards

Sarah Dynes & Nicola Coulson (Co-Chairs), Elaine Hanmer Grant (Secretary), Lydia & Ed Hill (Co-Treasurers)