

Hello all!

Welcome back to the new school year! We've got heaps of exciting and fun plans to tell you about the coming year but first for a little scene setting.

The main role of the FTS (Friends of Thurlestone School) is to support the schools plans by fundraising to ensure our little ones have as many opportunities and experiences as possible during their time here. We also aim to have a fair dollop of fun in the process.

Last Year's Round Up

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who was involved in raising last years funds of £5066. £2961 was spent on trips, education enrichment, Easter eggs, Christmas, and Year 6 presents. We also pay £75 for KS1 folk to park at the village hall.

We now have £14000 left in the FTS account of which we will be spending £10000 on school projects this year from this fund.

The Schools Plans

With their new mission and values, the school have some exciting plans to develop this year including the school garden, outdoor kitchen, and outdoor classroom. More info to follow. A key focus is to involve the local community in our school. Other smaller projects will also be supported throughout the year.

Fundraising Target for The Year

We aim initially to raise £5000, but I'm sure we can smash this!

The FTS website is being set up to show progress and keep you all updated with activities and targets to avoid email overload.

How We Are Going to Fundraise

1. Events

Traditionally there have been a mixture of large and small events throughout the year.

Small events raise very little, and the focus is on fun for the children. Moving forwards to keep in line with the school's inclusivity approach, the FTS will be asking for voluntary donations to all our children's events, everyone is welcome! Please support these events as much as feel able. We will provide a suggested donation amount.

2. Passive Income

The FTS would like to bring in some passive income streams that have the potential to generate the £3000 alone, provided we all get behind them. These activities are things like the school lottery, Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising. More on how to support these later in October.

3. Friday Fun Sale

One of the big fundraisers is the traditional Friday Bake Sale, generating around £3000 each year. The class rep's co-ordinate the sale. Each class takes responsibility for one half term period,

providing goodies for the rest of the school to purchase. Each item is £1. The sum raised by each class is put towards going on a jolly or doing something fun, of their choice, at the end of the year. There's been lots of chit chat over how this should be run. During the last committee meeting we discussed and voted unanimously to continue with the sale each Friday but with the following changes;

- There will be a sign-up list each week for various goodies whilst including some cakes but also healthy, savoury, and sweet alternatives such as fruit, popcorn, drinks or other.
- Funds raised will be pooled and divided equally between all the classes at the end of the year for their chosen activity.
- There will be a card payment option in place if you are like us and always forget some coins!
- Sedgewell Cove will kick off after half term.

4. Other Activities

These include Christmas cards, hoodies, and tea towels etc.

And Finally

We are a fabulously diverse bunch, with varying skills, and backgrounds, that can be utilised at the school or in the FTS fundraising. We'd love as many of you as possible to get involved in our shared cause, the school, and our little ones. If you've got great ideas and want to make stuff happen, please let us know and join in.

We are keen to get as much fun stuff happening as possible. Not every event will float your boat, we get that. But, with more people involved, doing different projects, all for the good of the school, there's bound to be something for you to enjoy and have fun at.

Opinions will always vary on how best to proceed so please come to the meetings if you want to share them and help us act on them.

Huge thanks for reading this. Next one will be much shorter we promise. We just had to set the scene today.

Next Events

9am Friday 7th October – Thank FTS its Friday coffee and catch up – all welcome. Thurlestone Parish Hall

Wednesday 9th November – After School Disco with everyone's favourite Carrot! For KS1 & KS2 – Let's get neon and raise the roof!

Next FTS Meeting

8pm Wednesday 19th October – School Hall or on Teams – The more the merrier. Agenda to follow

Huge thanks one and all. Here's to a fab year!

Corinna, Vic, Vicky, and Sarah