

Friends of Thurnham (FoT):- Chair Report 2017/18



Welcome to the 'Friends of Thurnham Infant' School AGM 2018.

The Friend's purpose is to raise funds for The School to buy things and/or experiences to benefit the children that the school would otherwise not be able to afford within their budget. This is largely achieved by running social events either during or out of school hours for children, parents and staff. Having fun and enhancing the children's experience at school as well as building a friendly welcoming community is at the core of our thinking and planning when putting together the calendar of events.

In August 2016 FoT became a registered charity, charity number 1168528. All committee members became trustees of the charity and are registered with The Charity Commission. FoT follows a constitution which sets out the rules and procedures by which our committee members govern.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Eve Small, Wendy Batchelor and Sylwia Kupis who have come to the end of their term as trustees for FoT and are stepping down as committee members. They have made up a fabulous team and made FoT so successful.

This year we ran 15 separate events varying from the Advent Market to leavers frames, a disco and our second coin trail.

A full list is shown in the Treasurers Report.

Regular

- Family Fun Day:- we had a great day of sunshine smiles and laughter. A grand total of £1,780.46 was raised.
- Advent Market:- raised a hugely impressive £2,257. In addition, we received match funding from KIMS and DHL totalling £679.50. We gained positive feedback from the event and the children had great fun.

New

- End of Year Ball:- a sophisticated evening of dinner and entertainment hosted by our friends at the Bearsted Golf Club . A brilliant evening making a profit of £1,732.52
- Pamper Evening:- bringing outside services and stall holders into the school for a Mother's Day treat was challenging but again we received great feedback, parents already asking when the next one will be. Profit from this event was £648.21
- Tesco Bags of help:- in addition this year we all pulled together in collecting the Tesco Blue coins and secured a grant for the playground of £4,000.
- The Hilton Maidstone have chosen us as one of their preferred charities and have not only come into school to help paint the multi coloured fences, but also donated money for the projector in the school hall. A total of £1,171.99 in donations have been received so far.

Total profit last year: **£17,560.29**, which includes the final Tesco payment of £1,000.

Total donated to school **£11,158.02**. This money went towards the castle and playground equipment, Christmas presents, transition boxes, bedtime story drinks and ice creams to name a few items.

Today we are giving a further **£10,619.71** to Thurnham School, which includes money from Tesco for the playground markings and the donation from The Hilton for the Audio/visual equipment. FoT has also agreed to reimburse the school for the outside paint once the costings are provided to FoT.

We have further funds available to allocate before Christmas and we would like your help to decide how this should be spent. Some suggestions:

- £600 on 9 x 45min teaching sessions with an outside company during book week with an 'under the sea' theme.
- £3195 – on a Mural in the school hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued help and support. I have really enjoyed my time as Chair over the past two years. Now that my son is in his final year at Thurnham, I am happy to hand had over the baton as I concentrate on my professional career.

Many thanks.

Alison Norris, FOT Chair.