

Friends of Fishergate School Newsletter Feb 2019

Welcome to the second Friends of Fishergate Newsletter of 2018/19. Thank you so much for everything you have been able to do to help raise the money we have, last term.

Next Friends of Fishergate Meetings: Mon 18th Feb., Tue 25th Mar. 7pm, Seahorses Hotel, Fawcett St.

Friends of Fishergate Events 2019

Fri 15th Mar : Film Night (look out for information coming soon)

Fri 5 Apr : Easter Disco

Fri 17 May : Spring Festival 15:30 - 17:00

Fri 14 Jun : Fancy Dress Football 15:30 - 17:00

Sat 6th Jul : Summer School Fair

Friday Cake Stall

These happen most Fridays, until the May half-term. Each year group takes a turn to bring in cakes (homemade or bought) to see who can raise the most. **As of the end of January, the year groups have raised:**

EYU: £288.21

Y1/2: £249.76

Y3/4: £209.57

Y5/6: £191.90

With the money raised, Y3/4 have been buying some more books for their reading corner, and Early Years are acquiring some new blocks for their small world blocks area. What wonderful ways to enhance our children's learning opportunities. Thank you so much to everyone who keeps the cake stalls going with baking and buying and selling. Thanks also to the staff for communications home, and for the planning and effort that goes into making the purchases for the classroom. (After May half-term break, FoF sell frozen goodies to celebrate the summer.)

2019 Dates for Year Groups Cake Stall

EYU: 15 Feb, 3 May

Y1/2: 8 Mar, 17 May

Y3/4: 15 Mar, 24 May

Y5/6: 10 May

Special Cake Stalls in aid of NSPCC

EYU: 22 Mar

Y1/2: 29 Mar

Y3/4 & Y5/6: 5 Apr

Funds Raised at the Christmas Fair: £1,235.03 and the Christmas Shop: £628

Thank you to everyone who supported these events. The response to donations for the Christmas Fair was phenomenal, and the amount of excited customers at the Christmas Shop was a sight to behold! We have had some very helpful and constructive feedback on the running of the Christmas Fair, which means that we will be considering running it over two floors again next year, and also that it may start and finish a little later (e.g. 5pm - 7pm) to help with a free-flowing attendance, and perhaps avoid the after-school crush, which can be difficult to negotiate with prams and toddlers.

What Friends of Fishergate have helped to subsidise so far this 2018/19 Year:

- Coaches for the annual Y5/6 trip to Robin Wood Activity Centre, Dobroyd Castle, Todmorden
- Whole school trip to the Grand Opera House Pantomime
- Tuition at Tuesday Drop-in Chess Club, and entry for the school into the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge

- 10 BBC Microbit Student Class Packs (a small programmable, single-board computer to inspire children to code)
- Fresh fruit & veg snacks for KS2 (not provided centrally)

A diverse range of good causes, supported by all our efforts.

Forest School Maintenance

Recently, Fishergate families and staff, as well as students and staff from the Blueberry Academy, have been pitching in to carry out some maintenance to the wonderful Forest School Area, on the school field (originally built by Fishergate family volunteers, and students from the Blueberry Academy). Some people have been able to secure Ward Funding for the area, green token donations from Waitrose, as well as donations of goods from local businesses and environmental charities. Last week, Persimmon delivered 10 tonnes of topsoil to the field, which the enthusiastic band of volunteers barrowed in, to build up the climbing mounds. The willow tunnel was trimmed and the whips from it were used to build a woven hurdle fence, in place of the hedge, which didn't survive last summer's drought. **Some volunteers were able to use the volunteering time allowed to them by their employer. Does your employer have a scheme like that?** Maybe you can help next time. There is often tea and cake involved, too. There will also be opportunities to get involved with smaller-scale jobs, such as ongoing maintenance- weeding, willow pruning, general tidying up. You don't have to know the first thing about gardening, it's a very simple, and enjoyable way of giving back to the school community, if you have a little bit of time you can allocate.

Coffee Mornings

Join other Fishergate families in the staff room on Thursday mornings, 9-10. Refreshment, and a chance to find out more about what's happening within the school community. Often there is a member of staff available. Little ones welcome, too. Ask the office staff if you need to use the lift.

What is Friends of Fishergate...?

Friends is the wide and varied group of Fishergate grown-ups who give a bit of their time over the year to help build the school community and raise money for the extra things.

Friends of Fishergate Meetings & Volunteering

If you'd like to join our email list so you can be kept up to date with FoF news (including meeting dates) please let us know at friendsoffishergateschool@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to join the mailing list and attend meetings. The minutes of the meetings will soon be available to view on the school website:

<http://www.fishergateschool.com/information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please do email if you would like to be listed as a potential volunteer to help at events. There is never any pressure to say yes, just keep an eye out for the upcoming events, and let us know if you think you are able to help.

Some other ways to raise money for Friends of Fishergate...

Employers' match fundraising and charitable allowance

Aviva and Morrisons have run match funding schemes. Does your employer (they are not always well-advertised)? We are always on the look out for raffle and tombola prizes for the fairs and donations in kind e.g. food and drink for events and smaller employers (e.g. shops and other local businesses) may be willing to help in this way.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk You can shop with many big names via this page. Register, login, and choose the retailer (eBay, Amazon, John Lewis, to name a few). Money from every purchase you make is directly paid into the FoF bank account.