

Friends of Fishergate School Newsletter Autumn 2023

A Big Hello to all Fishergate Families!

Welcome to the first FoF newsletter in 2023/24. We would like to give a very warm welcome to all the new families joining us in school this year and hope you have all settled in well during the first half of term.

Who are 'Friends'? To make a quick introduction, anyone who has a child at Fishergate School is a Friend of Fishergate School! There is a small elected committee who meet to set the events and the parents and carers of Fishergate School who choose to give time to help fundraising for the school with events that are held over the year. Meetings are open to all to attend. Friends of Fishergate School is a registered charity and all the funds raised each year go directly to our school to further the enrichment of our children's learning journey.

Reasons to get involved! It is a really great way to get to know other families within school, make new friends and strengthen the school community. There is always a good team spirit and sense of achievement around each event.

If you are interested in finding out what Friends are doing and think you might be able to help out from time to time or even fancy a committee role in the future, join our mailing list by emailing us at friendsoffishergateschool@gmail.com

Recent Purchases.

In recent years the fundraising has gone to provide various additional experiences, treats & tools for the children including:

- Musical instruments (ukuleles 2022/23)
- Authors visiting school & workshops
- Sports equipment, board games, forest school equipment,
- Frozen treats in hot weather, sports days & celebrations
- Last year covered coach costs for the Yr 6 residential and class trips.
- Subsidising Pantomime trips for the whole school.
- Year Group Classes using their cake sale monies on extras in the classroom like books and games, toys and special ventures outside.

Upcoming Dates For Your Diaries:

Friends Meeting - Thursday 23rd November 9am at Kawa Coffee Shop Fulford Road

Christmas Fair planning. We are looking for helpers at the following events.

Donations Day (For the Christmas Fair) - Monday 4th December 8.45-9am

Drop your donations for Tombola, raffle, jam-jars, books, teddys etc in the lower school hall. More details below.

Christmas Fair - Friday 8th December at 3.30-5.30pm

Free entry via the school's front door. Bring your friends, bring Grandparents for festive family fun. Stalls, Choir & Refreshments.

Christmas Shop Thursday 14th & Friday 15th December

Each child in school gets the opportunity to buy small Christmas gifts for their family. £2 per gift, Maximum of 5 gifts (£10)

Santa's Grotto at Fishergate School - Wednesday 13th December

Santa and his right hand Elf, visit Fishergate Primary! All children are invited to visit them in the magical grotto! (During school hours)

MORE NEWS Updates!

Fishergate School Christmas Fair 🎄 The **Jam-Jar Stall** & Teddy Tombola - are two of our most popular stalls so please start collecting your clean jam jars, unwanted teddies and soft toys (clean, washed & in good condition pls) for our Christmas fair stalls.

Also donations of chocolate, alcohol & beverages, new giftable items across the Tombola stalls and foodie items for Christmas hampers. This is one of our two big yearly fundraisers and we are incredibly grateful for all your support to make it happen. Further details are going out via email, facebook and on the Friends page of the school website.

Halloween Disco and Pumpkin Parade 2023 The Halloween Disco & Pumpkin Parade was a fabulous success despite a wet & wintery evening outside. The children really went all out on their costumes, it was a truly AMAZING sight to see!! This year was run a little differently, using our own combination of disco lighting and a well curated musical playlist of themed songs and popular dance floor favourites. It

seemed to work really well. Feedback so far has been very positive! What did you think? Let us know! Special thanks to everyone who attended and helped out, you all ROCK and we successfully raised a mind blowing £521.26!!

Speed Quiz & Curry Night Oct 2023 was very well attended with over 50 tickets sold. A jovial evening was hosted by Speedquizzing's very own Alan Leach. With freshly prepared curries included in the ticket and a cash bar available, a fantastic £270.98 was raised. Thank you to all those who were able to support this event.

More News....

Cake Sales 2022/23: A collective sales total of £436.93 has been raised to date which is very impressive! Each group gets another go during November, every Friday, see dates below. Please send your generous and lovely baked goods into school with your child on the day.

Without your amazing baking skills, tasty donations and an eagerness to sell and eat them, this just otherwise would not be happening. So a big YAY to all of you! Thank you for all your efforts.

- 10/11/23- Year 5 & 6
- 17/11/22 - Year 3 & 4
- 24/11/22 - Year 1 & 2
- 01/12/22 - Early Years

Cake Stall Helpers Can you step in and help to sell the cakes? We always need a good bank of helpers from across the year groups. Please let us know if you are available on your child's year group (or any other) week via the Friends email or leave your details at the school office. Set up is on Friday at 3pm in the Lower School Hall, the sale starts at 3.15pm.

AGM Meeting was held on 14/09/23 and the following committee members were voted in for another year:

Chair - Alison Roe (John's Mum Yr 5)

Treasurer - Roni Robbins (Daisy's Mum Yr 6)

There were nine attendees present with five apologies for absence. These positions are up for nomination every year, if you are interested in seeking a position, please let us know, as support, handover's & shadowing are all available to set you on your way.

Did You Know?

Thursday Coffee Mornings 9-10am *run weekly* upstairs in the staff room. Free tea & Coffee and often a good biccie or bake if you are lucky! An inclusive and informal space to meet other parents, make a connection and to get your day off to a good start. This is purely a social space for nothing more than good company. Parents, Carers & pre-school, infant siblings welcome ☕

If you are planning any online shopping, by going to **www.easyfundraising.org.uk** you can shop with any of the big brand names and earn money for our school. Register, Login and choose your retailer (eBay, Tesco, Argos to mention a few) A percentage from every sale is paid directly to the FOF bank account as a donation.

How can I support the FOF Fundraising?

There are so many different ways that you can support and be part of the fund raising activities.

- Come along and support the events! Invite your friends and family to the Summer & Christmas Fairs.
- Join our mailing list to hear about planning towards upcoming events
- Offer to help on a stall, create a poster or approach local business or your place of work for raffle prizes - we can let you know what is needed.

Q: I'm interested to find out what's going on but I'm not sure I can make the meetings and commit all of the time? Don't let that stop you from being part of the conversation. Email us and ask to be put on our mailing list, we can keep you in the know around events and planning, giving you the autonomy to step up if and when you can.

Your level of commitment is purely down to you and you will never be pressured into doing things you don't want to or can't.

Q: I've got a fundraising idea to put forward to Friends. If you have an idea for an event or know of any local community fundraising pots through your employers please do let us know! Large employers like Morrisons or Aviva run 'match funding schemes'. Does your employer offer a scheme like this?

Get in touch at friendsoffishergateschool@gmail.com

Thank you for taking time to read this far,
YOU ARE ALL AMAZING!!

Friends of Fishergate School 2023