



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017

Hello from the Friends. We have put together a newsletter to give you some more information about us as a group and to let you know what the funds we raise are being spent on.

The Friends is the PTA group for Banks Road Infants & Nursery School. We are a registered charity, run entirely by volunteer parents & representatives of the teaching staff. Our aim is to raise funds for the school and nursery to provide extra items not covered by the school's budget, as well as arranging a wide variety of fun social events throughout the school year for the parents and children.



Summary of events we have held so far.....

Treasure hunt

This year we 'went on a bear hunt'. I hope those of you who joined us enjoyed the event. We had crafts, games, raffle and refreshments in the hall. There was a bear hunt trail through the woods near the school, searching for clues and filling in our quiz. Every child received a sweet treat for completing the trail and two lucky children received a prize drawn by the school. This event raised a 'beartastic' £545.54!!!! Thanks to everyone who attended and helped at the event and we hope you agree it makes a lovely start to the school year, especially for all the new families to the school.

MacMillan Coffee morning

We ran a coffee morning again this year to raise funds for MacMillan, thanks to all those star bakers who sent in cakes and biscuits and everyone who supported on the day. We raised £220.21 all of which was donated to MacMillan

Pamper Night

We ran the annual pamper night and Christmas shopping event and many a bottle of Prosecco was popped (all for the good of the children of course!). The event is a chance to get a bit of pampering with a number of beauty therapists who join us for the event and of course pick up a few Christmas gifts. We have a licensed bar so you can then sit back and have a chat over a glass, or two (after all you are worth it!). This year the event made a fantastic £950.78!!! Again, a big thank you for all your support.

Christmas Disco

We were lucky enough to get another visit from the big man himself this year at the Christmas disco. I am sure you will agree that the grotto was fantastic again this year and a big thank you to the teaching staff who make that all happen. The children get a chance to have a dance, visit Father Christmas and get a gift. We had a sweet shop, drinks and games for the children and not forgetting the Mums and Dads we also had a licensed bar. This year we made a record breaking £1125.75!! So a big thank you to everyone involved as there is lot of effort behind the scenes from the committee and the staff to make this event happen.

What events do we have coming up in 2017?

- **3rd March 2017** - 'Time for a cuppa' coffee morning –all proceeds to Dementia UK
- **10th March 2017** - Adults Quiz and Bingo Night (with Fish n Chips and licensed bar) – This is a great event and a great way to meet other parents. Come as a team or join one on the night!
- **12th May 2017** - Spring Disco – Similar to Christmas Disco (no visit from the big man this time though!)
- **24th June 2017** - School BBQ – Get the date in your diary and remember tickets sell fast for our most popular event of the year!
- **15th July 2017** - Tesco Community Event– look out for more information soon.

How do we spend the all funds that we raise?

You might be surprised to find out how much is funded by us!

So far this year the Friends have paid for:

- The Christmas Tree
- Books from Father Christmas
- Budget to refresh Nativity costumes
- Each class teacher given a budget to use for Children's rewards etc.
- 50th Celebration artwork - We are proud to have supported the school with the artwork to celebrate 50 years of Banks Road Infants School.



- Working with the school we have lots of plans for the rest of the year too.

Examples of what we have funded in previous years:

- Easter eggs for every child... yes we help the Easter Bunny too!
- We fund half of the year 2 leaver's trip.
- Forest School - The Friends funded the building of the Forest school behind the Nursery. Not only did we pay for the mud kitchen, fire pit, kettle etc. We also purchased puddle suits for all year groups so that every child can enjoy the area no matter what the weather. It also means you as parents do not have to provide your child with a suit (or deal with a muddy uniform!!).



- The large interactive portable screen that is used in the hall and throughout the school.



- iPads – in recent years we have bought the school 20 iPads so every class has an opportunity to use them



- We have bought a camera for every class.
- General support for anything the school might need to enhance the children's learning (from playground toys, egg incubators to seeds!)

We hope you agree your money goes a long way and the events we run provide fun social events for the children and adults alike.

We need your help!

- As they say, 'every little helps'. You can support us simply by attending the events we put on, baking or offering half an hour of your time at an event to sell drinks or sweets etc. We also often need help to set-up and clear away.
- You can join us in our committee meetings - you do not have to attend every meeting or every event. You can give as little or as much time as you are able.
- Join the elected committee - we have a Chair (currently a shared role), a Vice Chair, Treasurer and a Secretary. This is required to maintain our registered charity status. The elections are held every year at the AGM.

Next scheduled meeting - **28th March 2017 at 7:30pm** in the staff room.

For regular updates on events and how you can help follow us on Facebook at:



Friends of Banks Road Infants School

(different to the schools Facebook site!) or you can contact us via e-mail

friendsofbanksroad@gmail.com

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

The Friends.