

NEWSLETTER July 2017

Hello again from the Friends. As promised here is a newsletter to update you on the rest of the years activities.

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 in the Spring and Summer.....

Time for a cuppa

We held a coffee morning on 3rd March in aid of Dementia UK. The school joined in with a non-uniform day and made cakes for all the children. The school and coffee morning combined raised a staggering £509.58. All the funds raised went directly to Dementia UK. We were blown away by your generosity on the day. As Dementia affects so many families we have taken onboard your feedback and will look to run another event next year.

Adult Quiz night

With thinking caps and dabbers at the ready we held the adult quiz night in March, with fish and chips, quiz and bingo. The event was very well attended and a great fun. A special thank you to Dan Williams for putting the quiz together and being our amazing compere for the evening. We raised £405.57.

Spring Disco

Come May it was time to get out our dancing shoes again and hold the spring disco. Tickets sales were higher than expected (we sold out of glow sticks at an alarming rate and will ensure we purchase far more next year!!). At this event we really struggled to get volunteers to help us run the event, this left us understaffed at both discos which we all felt uncomfortable about afterwards. If we are unable to get enough volunteers in the future we will reduce to one disco and hence reduce the number of tickets available. The event however was a success and the children all seemed to enjoy it, we raised a simply amazing £1127.44!!

School BBQ

On now to our last and biggest event of the year, the BBQ. We invited you to join us at our Hawaiian themed BBQ to get the summer in full swing. We cannot thank enough all the wonderful parents and staff who came together to make the event a success. So much amazing work goes on behind the scenes. The sun shone, the drinks flowed, the class games were as always fantastic fun and Dizzy the Wizard worked his magic. Yet again your support helped us raise a fantastic amount of money with a whopping £2605.39 raised on the day!!

We hope you agree it was such a lovely way to round off a really great year.

Special thank you

A special thank you to **Georgina Swann** in Oak who raised additional funds for the Friends by running a game at a family party. She was able to present us with a cheque for £10!! Thank you Georgina for all your hard work and for thinking of us, we will make sure your money is put to good use.

What events do we have coming next year?

- **AGM – 27th September 2017 (All Welcome!!)**
- **MacMillan coffee morning -29th September 2017**
 - **Treasure Hunt – 14th October 2017**
 - **Pamper Night -17th November 2017**
 - **Christmas Disco – 8th December 2017**
 - **Time for a Cuppa – 2nd March 2018**
 - **Quiz Night – 9th March 2018**
 - **Spring Disco – 11th May 2018**
 - **Summer BBQ - 23rd June 2018**

How do we spend the all funds that we raise?

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

Amongst other things, 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.
- New bookcases for all the classrooms (as advised by Speech, Language and Communication service.)
- Easter eggs
- Refreshed our Disco lights
- Funded the Y2 cosy corner
- New fun rugs/carpets for the reception classes for your little ones to sit on.
- Year 2 leavers trip – we fund the ticket price so the parents only need to pay for transport.



Working with the school we have lots of plans for the next year too. Firstly we will look to invest in a new sound system for the hall to help with assemblies, shows and also to use at Friends events. We are also looking at new book cases and seating for the hall to make finding and choosing books easier and more fun and further fun ideas to enhance some of the outside space.

Examples of what we have funded in previous years:

- 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 is the AGM - **27th Sept 2017 at 6:30pm** in the Hall.

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.