



Thank you for another fabulous year

Dear Parents/guardians,

As this academic year draws to a close, the PTA Committee would like to thank you all wholeheartedly for your continued support, which has enabled us to raise an amazing amount of money for our school yet again.

The total raised this academic year has now reached just over **£15,000**.

A huge thanks to everyone who's helped organise, volunteered at and attended events, to all those who've baked, bought and eaten cakes (both at school and the farm) and to those who generously make a monthly donation to the PTA.

A special thanks to the following people, without whom, many of these events wouldn't happen...

Sarah Williams and Jemma Reagan-Cummins (Fireworks - £1,479)

Katie Scotland (discos £1,485)

the Winter Fayre (£1,866) crew – Sarah Lynott, Harriet Pilkington, Lucy Stavri, Louise Lloyd, Sarah Jackson, Sophie T-J

Fliss Childs (Swish - £433)

Jamie Colston (Jumble sale - £1,119)

Jo Taylor, Jono Buchanan, Nicky Thomas (music club - £1,015)

Jo Taylor, Peter & Laura Lord (Farm Day cake sale - £691)

Vicki and Alan Mowat (Riverford cookery evening - £215)

Kate Courage (Dick Whittington - £220)

And Elizabeth Ellen, the sausage queen of Freshford, who deserves a special mention for tirelessly cooking hundreds of sausages over the last year for every event that's featured a sausage!

A thousand apologies if we've missed anyone off the list.

This is how some of the money has been spent...

Topping up the school budget to allow an additional four afternoons of teaching support and maths 'intervention' hours

George class building works

Hardship fund contributions for Let's Explore and Skern Lodge

Maths resources

Solar panel planning application costs

Class reading sets, dictionaries, thesauruses

Photocopier rental

Musical instruments

George/BTS toys/equipment

Furniture for Ashe class and support room

Termly book and petty cash funds for each class

This year we were fortunately spared the threat of losing our highly valued teaching support staff, but as you will have read in a recent letter from Mr Wishart, schools are in the midst of a funding crisis, and we already know that next year the school will be asking for us to help support their budget with £12k. This will be in addition to the usual contributions we make to resources, the hardship fund and the exciting 'extras' such as the Shakespeare project.

With this in mind, we would welcome any offers of support with organising annual or new events next year and always welcome new ideas such as clubs or other fundraising initiatives.

This would be a good time to also remind you all to please sign up to Give as you Live (if you haven't already done so) to raise free funds for the school when you shop online. And also, that you can now make monthly, or one-off, donations through Give as you Live/Everyclick. Details for both can be found at www.freshfordpta.org.uk

Although fundraising always takes centre stage, we'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the countless parents who have helped at school in numerous other ways during the course of the year, including parent readers, class reps, world book day organisers/readers, helpers on school trips and Let's Explore and parents who have offered their expertise, running workshops and projects with various classes and the solar panel team.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who has supported the charitable initiatives organised by both parents and students for charities including, Tusk, the Turi Micah Project and Afrikaya (over 100 pairs of shoes were collected on the last day of term).

Our AGM will be held in September, so please come along if you'd like to join the committee, get more involved in fundraising or have an idea for a new learning initiative. As you may probably already know, Louise will be stepping down as co-chair. George will stay on as chair, but needs to find a helpful and supportive vice chair who's willing to learn the ropes with the aim of taking over in September 2020!

For those families moving on - thank you once again for all your contributions to the PTA over the years at the school. We wish all your children the very best of luck as they start the next part of their learning journey.

Wishing you all a very happy summer holiday.

The PTA Committee

