

THURSTONLAND FIRST SCHOOL PTA NEWS

September 2017

A big **WELCOME** to all new parents and a big **THANK YOU** to you all for your support last term; helping us to raise much needed funds for our school.

If you'd like to know more about the PTA please just grab one of us for a chat. We are a friendly bunch and we welcome all fundraising ideas and volunteers.

The PTA AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th October at 6pm in Miss Norris' class room. All Welcome.

Update on the "Grow a £1 Challenge"



A MASSIVE round of applause to **Harvey Lloyd** who raised a whopping **£200** on the summer "Grow a £1" challenge. So, just to bring new parents up to date... at the end of the summer term each pupil was given £1 and the option to use that £1 to see if they could grow it, or they could just return their £1 in September. Twenty-two children took part and raised a total of **£677!** We have had some brilliant business ideas and we certainly do have some great little business minds out there! As an extra incentive whom ever had the best performing business would get their money returned!! We hope you buy something nice Harvey...well done!

Don't forget to return your £1 to school if you didn't use it.

The Winners!

Best Performing Business ~ Harvey Lloyd

Harvey started with walking his aunties dog for a few days and charged her £10. He then bought cleaning products with his £1 and some of his £10 profit and cleaned out wheelie bins for family, friends and neighbours, charging £5 each. With some of that profit he then bought gardening supplies, grew plants and sold them for £2 each...£200 profit!

Best Original Idea ~ Ryder Clarke

Ryder bought a book of raffle tickets with his £1 and sold tickets for £1 each. The prize was for Ryder to be your assistant for the day and help with ANY jobs that needed doing! Unfortunately, much to his disappointment his friend won the raffle and Ryder had to clean out their cat's litter tray and much more! We appreciate all your efforts Ryder!

Best Ingenious Idea ~ Freya and Maddie Lister

Freya used her £1 to buy a box of tea bags and Maddie used her £1 to buy a tea towel. These entrepreneurial sisters charged for making the brews and drying up all over the summer holidays!

A great big round of applause and thank you to **ALL** those who took part.



As well as raising money for school we've had lots of feedback about how the challenge has instigated conversations about the value of money, how some pupils are now doing chores to earn pocket money and how discussions have been had that have helped pupils understand that "money doesn't grow on trees!"

What we raised last term:

- Tea and Cake in the school garden £129
- Teachers Photo Competition £54
- Pirate Treasure Hunt £23
- Tuck Shop £80
- School Lottery £379
- Easy Fundraising £28.50
- Beetle Bingo £159
- Movie Night £185

What we used PTA funds for last term

- Contribution towards the cost of replacing a broken smart board £1340
- Bought Leavers Hoodies for our Year 5 pupils £135
- Held a welcome picnic for reception children £25
- We paid £520 to help subsidise school trips and coach costs
- We provided each new starter in reception with a book bag £25
- We paid for Art School at Hope Bank for Year 2/3 £220

Upcoming Events and Fundraisers



Good News....Bad News!

First the bad news!... we aren't having a Christmas Fair this year!! The good news... We are having a Halloween Hullabaloo instead!! Ok, we heard a few groans there because we know how everyone loves the Christmas Fair.....So, "Why no Christmas Fair?" you ask

Honestly, there's a few reasons...

Firstly, we are conscious, because some of you have told us, that you don't want to be "asked for donations every two minutes" or "forking out" at fundraisers every week so a Big Halloween Fundraiser followed by a Big Christmas Fundraiser is likely to go against that feedback!

We've also had feedback that some parents have felt there were too many requests for donations in Summer and it was compulsory to attend or participate in all fundraisers, and not a choice, as is intended. Perhaps, also, on reflection whilst the Village Gala is being organised during Summer we could do fewer things during that time? We will bear all this in mind whilst still trying to raise much needed funds. Please note, however, that the Village Gala is not a PTA run event, as some thought, but is a separate Committee representing the whole Village, which although does include several of our parents also includes members of the church and cricket club.

We genuinely don't want our parents to feel this way, we aim to run lots of different fundraisers with a view that you and your children attend the ones that suit you. We are a new and very small PTA and we are still learning, but yes, we do obviously rely heavily on your support and we are very grateful for the donations you bring in to school or the time you give to run a stall and we don't want to take advantage of that.

As busy parents ourselves it's a constant struggle to find time to plan and organise fundraisers to try and put some "money in the pot" to just pay for things our children need. Basically, as our school budget is cut yet again there is no money in the pot for the basics sometimes, like replacing a broken smartboard, let alone the nice little extras we want our children to experience, like Art and Music Days for example.

And so, as Halloween is becoming more popular with the children and many were disappointed we didn't have a Halloween Event last year we've decided to put all our efforts into a big Halloween Hullabaloo this year instead...it's going to be such a great Fun Family Event... We will still have regular fundraisers over the year like Movie Nights and Beetle and Bingo Night which are all optional to attend.

A big **THANK YOU** to you all for supporting our PTA so we can provide our children with the things they both need and deserve; it really is greatly appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19th October

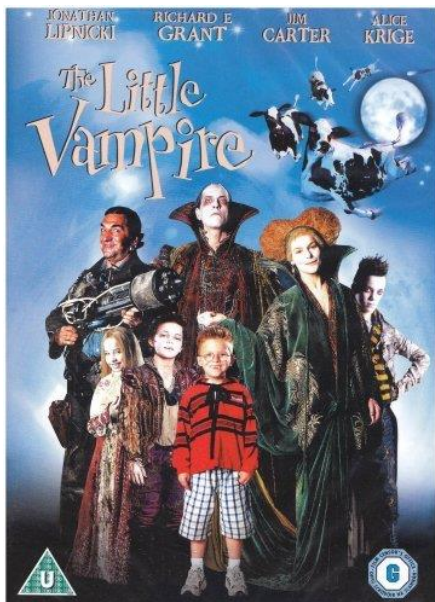
6pm-7.30pm at School

Halloween Hullabaloo



Lots of fun to be had...think Christmas Fair but Halloween Style!...We'll have.... "Pumpkin Toss" "Mummy Tubes" "Give the Witch a Wart" "Spider Splat" "Family Pumpkin Carving Competition" and much more! More details to follow shortly...

Movie Night



The Little Vampire (U)

Wednesday 1st November

3.30pm - 5.45pm

£6 per child

(2+ children in family £5 a child)

Includes Hot Dog, Drink &
Halloween Treats

Return money, in an envelope, to the office marked "Movie Night" and your child's name. (Hurry! Spaces are limited)

Other ways we are raising money on a daily basis....

Easy Fundraising

This really is easy fundraising!! All you have to do is log on to

www.easyfundraising.org

everytime you are about to shop online. Simply type in where you want to shop (e.g Amazon, John Lewis, Next, booking.com) and it will take you to that website and automatically send a percentage (usually 1% - 2.5%) of your total order value directly into the PTA bank account.



School Lottery

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

You can register on line and play for £1 a week. Someone from school wins every week (prize fund depends on how many play) Not only that, 40% of the money that's played comes back into the school PTA account. In addition to this everyone who plays, nationally, is entered into a weekly £25,000 prize draw too!



Do you have any questions? Any fundraising ideas?

Speak to your PTA...we're a friendly bunch!

We also have a facebook group

[@ThurstonlandFirstSchoolPTA](#)



Your current PTA

Kate Norris (Chair)

Kate Smitherham (Vice Chair)

Sadie Robertson (Treasurer)

Elizabeth Scott (Secretary)

Camilla Langrick (Committee)

Anne Smith (Committee)

Thank you to Emma Hanks, Kirsten Wormald and Janine Channon for your continued support at PTA meetings and all you do.



And finally,...A special **THANK YOU** to Elizabeth Scott, who after 14 years of having children at Thurstonland is no longer at the school gates. She will officially hand over her "Secretary Baton" at the AGM on Wednesday 18th October (vacancy available!) Thank you for all the time and effort you have dedicated to raising funds for our school. XX