

FAPS Newsletter November 2019

We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on this terms FAPS activities, and give you a preview of some of the events we have planned for the coming academic year.

Firstly we want to introduce ourselves. We have decided to take a team approach to running FAPS and as such there are 4 of us who have taken on the admin and running.

Kate Coppock (Tabby Y4 and Rose Y5), Sarah Holt (Rex Y1), Lisa Hales (Charlie Y1, Henry Y2, Annie Y4) and Nicola Gobat (Bruno Y3).

Firstly we want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported FAPS, this and in previous years, as the money you have raised has enabled FAPS to purchase **£1468.38** worth of new books for the school. Every class in the school has benefitted from this purchase and I am sure that you will have seen the lovely new reading matter finding its way home.

We also wanted to say thank you so much to all of you who attended and helped out at the brilliant Autumn Colours Disco. We have received really positive feedback and are so pleased you all had such a great time. The amazing sum of **£618.50** was raised!

There are many activities planned in the run up to Christmas.

- Spithandle nursery have been very amazing and have donated a Christmas tree to the school which the children will decorate and certainly will add to the festive spirit.
- On the 10th of December the children will be having their Christmas party where they will each receive a present from Father Christmas. The book presents are donated by FAPS to every child.
- Every Friday in December we will be running a Lucky Dip at the Junior entrance after school. It will be £1 a go and all of the presents have been fantastically donated by the Harrison family. All proceeds will go to FAPS.
- FAPS will be running the traditional Hamper raffle again this year. We would be so very grateful if you could donate any items you might have that would be suitable. There is a white box marked as FAPS in the Junior school entrance hall for these items. Tickets for the raffle will be on sale after each of the carol concerts on the 6th, as well as with the lucky dip on the 6th and 13th. The grand prize draw will be on the 16th during open afternoon.
- The Voice of Christmas is being performed on Thursday the 19th at 5.30pm in St Andrews Church Steyning. Tickets are on sale and are available from Steyning bookshop, FAPs members or from Alex Gibson – Aggie Y6's Mum. Alex not only organises the whole event, but all of the proceeds from this event are donated to FAPS so please support this magical event, and a huge thank you to Alex for this massive effort. – Also if anyone could bake a batch of mice pies to be delivered to school on the morning of the concert it would be greatly appreciated.
- Finally as a little energy boost to get us over the line for Christmas, the FAPS team will be serving fresh coffee and tea in the school car park at drop off on the 19th and 20th of December. These will be free to any person doing drop off so please bring along a cup.

The year ahead has lots of brilliant activities planned, and several ideas still taking shape. To give you a flavour of some of these.....

After Football / Craft club teas are going to undergo a bit of a shake. The new rota will allocate a year group per week who will be responsible for providing the cakes for that week and serving the teas. There will be a FAPS representative present each week to deal with the money and provide the cups etc. – If anyone

would like to discuss these changes in more detail please feel free to talk to any of the FAPS team. Dates to be advised.

The school, and FAPS, are very keen to get Bumbles Garden up and running again. Bumbles has been used as a teaching resource for all the children and provides a multitude of learning opportunities. We will be putting together a working party list early in the new term. – *Watch the FAPS blackboard for more information.*

When asking school how FAPS can best support the school it became apparent that there are several maintenance projects that we can undertake as a parent body and save the school both time and money. We have asked the school to provide us with a list of these jobs and will tackle them as and when they come up. Currently we will be putting together volunteers to re paint / weather proof the sports shed and the cabin. At present we are waiting for a weather window. – *Watch the FAPS blackboard for more information.*

We are looking into putting on a children's cinema event at Ashurst village hall, in the coming weeks. As usual parental supervision will be required but we will have a separate room to allow escape from whatever movie is selected. – *Watch the FAPS blackboard for more information.*

An adults quiz night is planned for the spring term. This will involve teams, prizes, serious competition and some form of meal. – *Watch the FAPS blackboard for more information.*

Most importantly to give you an idea of where your money is going we have been asked to help the school with the upgrading of their curriculum IT equipment. Further information on requirements will be available soon, this will enable us to formulate some fundraising objectives going forwards, but we anticipate the level of funds required to support this to be significant. As and when we have more details to share, we will communicate with all parents so that we can together formulate a plan of how best to help in the provision of this to support our children's learning, and the brilliant teaching. Whilst this will be the main focus of our fundraising there will be smaller purchases in the interim that will provide immediate benefit to the school, i.e. we anticipate having to purchase new gardening equipment to help provide Bumbles garden.

We will be hosting a brief AGM before Christmas to carry out some formalities of running a committee but would be very happy to answer any questions on any of the above topics after the meeting. We would love to see as many of you as possible at this quick meeting, times and dates will follow but it will be scheduled around the school day.

We hope that you will agree that there is a lot to look forwards to in the coming months. Please watch the notice board for updates throughout the year, and thank you to the wonderful Libby who is so talented with her blackboard art.

Thank you so much for all of your continued support,

Kind Regards,

FAPS