

St Edward's First School Friends Christmas Bulletin

Friends AGM

Many thanks to all those who attended the AGM on Wednesday 27th September. Although we had a number of apologies, the meeting was particularly well-attended by parents whose children have joined the school this year. It was a packed agenda in which the Friends Committee roles were elected for this school year. Thanks to those who stepped forward for nominations and to all those who voted.

We have spent some time reflecting on this meeting and decided that having the AGM and the initial welcome meeting for new parents in one could be quite daunting for new parents, and due to the packed agenda, leaves little time for people to get to meet each other and start to understand the role of the Friends and the role we have in the school. We have therefore decided to have the next Annual General Meeting at the end of this school year, where we will summarise the year's achievements and vote in the new committee. This will then enable us to have a more welcoming meeting in September when we will spend more time explaining what we do and have more opportunities for parents new to the school to ask questions.

Friends Committee 2017-18

Chair:
Lucy Markham



Treasurer:
Antonio Diaz



Secretary:
Kat Keogh



Vice Chair:
Aisling Best



Vice Secretary:
Lucy Harris



Dates for your diary

Friday 13 th October	7.30pm – 9.30pm	PTA Quiz Night	New Hall St Edward's First School
Thursday 19 th October	Morning drop off	Cake and Second Hand Uniform Donations	Outside Mrs McAllister's Office
Thursday 19 th October	End of school day	Cake and Second Hand Uniform Sale	Old Hall St Edward's First School
Monday 30 th October – Monday 27 th November	Morning drop off/pick up	Food/drink donations for Christmas Hampers (to be raffled at the Bazaar) – one hamper per class	Outside your child's classroom / Yr 3 and 4 pick up area
Tuesday 14 th November	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Friends Meeting	Function room (upstairs) The Horse & Groom 4 Castle Hill, SL4 1PD
Thursday 16 th November	Morning drop off	Donations for Christmas Bazaar 'parent free room'	Please leave donations outside Mrs McAllister's office
Thursday 16 th November	In class: Fledglings 3.30pm-4.15pm: KS1 5pm – 6.15pm KS2	School Disco	Children to be dropped off/collected from Courtyard.
Friday 24 th November	End of school day	Christmas Tree Orders Deadline	Forms and payment in a clearly labelled envelope
Friday 1 st December	All day	Mufti day: children wear their own clothes and in return donate a tombola prize (Fledglings, Yr1 and Yr2 jars of sweets; Yrs 3 & 4: a 'bottle' (alcoholic or other)	Please leave donations outside Mrs McAllister's office
Saturday 2 nd December	12pm – 3pm	Christmas Bazaar	St Edward's First School
Wednesday 24 th January	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Friends Meeting	St Edward's First School
Tuesday 27 th February	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Friends Meeting	Function room (upstairs) The Horse & Groom 4 Castle Hill, SL4 1PD
Thursday 26 th April	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Friends Meeting	St Edward's First School
Monday 2 nd July	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Friends AGM	St Edward's First School
Wednesday 18 th July	Afternoon, exact times TBC	Sponsored Daily Mile	St Edward's First School
Wednesday 19 th September	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Friends Welcome Meeting	St Edward's First School

St Edward's First School

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 2nd December

Now we may be only just into October, but the St Edward's First School Christmas Bazaar comes but once a year...and it takes a lot of planning! So get your Santa hats to the ready and join us on a whirlwind of festive cheer ready for the big day. This is a fantastically fun event for the children (and parents and teachers too!), but in order to make it happen we will be asking for your generosity over the next few weeks. And for those of you new to the school, or can't remember what this Christmas Bazaar business is all about, we hope the following will be of some use.

The **Christmas Bazaar** is run by us, the parents of children at St Edward's, otherwise known as 'The Friends'. It is fast becoming our largest PTA fundraiser for the school. Last year's Christmas Bazaar raised £4,469.79 (which included £670.93 match-funding raised by Francesca Fulli – one of our parents who asked her company to match-fund the event). If you think your company might **match-fund our Christmas Bazaar** and would like more information, please email Friends@SECFs.org.uk. Each year we try to raise a little more than the year before. The money raised will help us support the Christmas Panto trip, Thrift week (when the children engage with the inexhaustible talents of Mr Tim and Mr Oliver (and of course Terence the mouse) in a theatrical melting pot of music, poetry and limitless imaginings, culminating in some fantastic writing projects), swimming lesson subsidies, Year 4 Leavers' gifts and those all important interactive Smart TVs.

So what's happening in 2017?

Each year group will organise a different aspect, so please seek out your class reps if you're not sure how you can get involved: Fledglings: Games, Year 1: Crafts, Year 2: Grotto and gate, Year 3: Refreshments, Year 4: Tombolas and Gate.

We will be having a **Christmas Market** again. Stallholders pay £20 to have a table, and take home whatever profit they make on the day. If you're interested, please contact Deborah Jepson: deborah@dcjdesigns.co.uk asap as payment needs to be received by Sunday 19th November.

This year we will be hosting the stalls in the Fledglings' classrooms and moving some of the children's activities into the New Hall to increase the flow of movement between the two buildings.

The **'Parent-free room'** will once again be run by the teachers. Children go into this room alone to choose a present (priced 50p - £2) for their parent/guardian which is then wrapped, ready to put under the Christmas tree at home. We are looking for donations of unwanted gifts, e.g. small boxes of chocolates, toiletries, books (unread), socks (unworn!). A popular tip is to 'give something you would like to receive' as you're quite likely to get your own gift back (particularly when your child knows what you donated!?).

Santa's Grotto

Tickets will be available in the courtyard and playgrounds at drop off and pick up from Santa's helpers (wearing Santa hats) two weeks before the bazaar. Tickets will be timed and children will receive a small gift. £3 for 1 child, £5 for 2, £7.50 for 3.

Raffle

We will again be having a Christmas hamper raffle. Last year's Christmas hampers were such a sight to behold and packed full of all sorts of festive treats, thanks to the generosity of our school community. These hampers are definitely worth buying a book of raffle tickets for. A wooden wine crate will be available in each classroom to receive donations after half term until Monday 27th November.

Tombolas

We run a sweetie tombola and a bottle tombola and ask for donations for each. We ask Fledglings, Year 1 and Year 2 to donate jars of sweets and Years 3 and 4

to donate bottles for the adult tombola, but please feel free to contribute to either. Children should bring the donations in on Friday 1st December in exchange for mufti (no school uniform) day.

We need you!

In addition to the donations, we need as many parents as possible to get involved in the run up to the bazaar (e.g. helping to organise donations, decorating hampers, organising craft or beauty activities, refreshments – whatever your school year is involved in), and we will of course need volunteers on Friday 2nd December after school to set up, and Saturday 3rd December from 9.30am to set up, during the event, and from 3 – 4.30pm to clear down and cash up. We will be putting a sign up sheet in the courtyard next half term, so please look out for this to put your name down, or contact your class rep. Many hands make light work and more fun for everyone.



And new for 2017 - Christmas Trees!

What better way to finish off your festive day at the Christmas Bazaar than to pick up your very own pre-ordered Christmas tree to take home with you? More information is being sent out through book bags this week. So if you are interested in purchasing premium quality Christmas trees at very competitive prices (because we will collectively be buying them in bulk), whilst raising funds for the school, keep an eye on those book bags!

