



**Thorpe CofE Primary School
Friends Of Thorpe School Association**

Welcome Booklet



Faith, Love and Excellence

School Vision

We deliver a dynamic, creative education for all. Inspired by faith and love, everyone will achieve academic and individual excellence.

Mission

We will value and develop all members of our school community, providing excellent opportunities for them to reach their full potential in body, mind and spirit.

Motto

Faith, Love and Excellence

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1. Welcome

A very warm welcome to your new school, and welcome to the Friends of Thorpe School Association (FOTSA). FOTSA's aim is to raise much needed funds for our school in order to enrich the lives of the children who attend Thorpe, and also to have fun while we're doing it. We would encourage you to join in the fun, and help the children of Thorpe school have as many resources available to them to enhance their time, in their School.

All parents automatically become members of FOTSA when their child joins the school. There are a number of ways in which you can become involved, even if it's just a small amount of time you can offer. We are always grateful for offers of help, no matter how small.

2. Role of the Committee and FOTSA parents

FOTSA's Committee consists of the following roles: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The AGM is held yearly, in September, and is when these roles are elected. Parents will also find out how much was raised, how the money was raised, and how it has been spent. All parents and Guardians of children in our school are welcome to attend all FOTSA meetings.

The Committee meets on a regular basis, during term time, with smaller FOTSA working groups meeting up more regularly to organise the various events that take place throughout the year.

The committee offer their time on a voluntary basis. If you would like to be involved with FOTSA please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee – the FOTSA email address can be found on the last page of this booklet.

We will be introducing a new system this year in which each year group has two FOTSA representatives. Their role would be to create a link between individual parents and FOTSA. We believe the support from FOTSA representatives will be vital when it comes to organising our main events – from selling tickets, to organising rotas of help. If you would like to represent your child's class, please contact Sonia Stansfield at soniastansfield@googlemail.com.

3. How we raise funds

There are a number of ways in which we raise funds throughout the year. Our main fundraisers are the Christmas and Summer fayres. We also have cake, Ice cream and Christmas card sales, as well as an Easter egg hunt that helps to generate funds.

Most importantly, we raise funds through donations from parents and local businesses. These could be donations of time, gifts for raffles, gifts for auctions etc. If you have any services or skills you can offer, they are all very welcome.

We would like to expand the number of events FOTSA organises throughout the year and

welcome any new ideas and offers of help.

3.1 Easy Fundraising & Yellow Moon

Easy Fundraising and Yellow Moon are convenient ways for you to help raise funds. When you make a purchase on Easy Fundraising (www.easyfundraising.org.uk), with one of their 2,700+ retailers, as a thank you for shopping, the retailer provides a donation for your chosen good cause (Thorpe CofE Primary School). Retailers include Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Next and eBay.

You can also shop with Yellow Moon (www.yellowmoon.co.uk), an arts and craft/gift supplier, they will then give a percentage of that purchase to Thorpe CofE Primary School.

4. How we spend the money raised

All money raised is banked quickly.

Generally, the school has a 'wish list' of items that they would like FOTSA to consider funding. These are sometimes requests the children have made, and others are to support a particular area of the curriculum, or to help improve the school environment.

This year FOTSA has provided new changing rooms for the school pool. The children were very pleased with their new facilities. We also organise a school disco for the children each year and this year the funds have also enabled a school trip to the Woking Pantomime this Christmas, which the children will all enjoy.

We have also committed funds raised to the new stage lighting for the school hall which will be a very exciting addition to the school's equipment.

Past funds have been spent on the reading arbour outside year 2, library furniture and we have also provided funding for the outside learning area for Sapphire and Emerald classes.

As well as funding, FOTSA parents have built the library area and storage in the new block, to enhance existing provision. FOTSA parents have also set up working parties that have demolished the existing pool changing rooms, created the garden area and environmental area.

Saving the school money and using the skills we have as parents is as valuable as raising money. Listening to a child read or helping with swimming is truly valued.

Future ideas for funding include helping create area outside year 2 area, extended reading books and outside theatre area. These ideas are to be agreed at future FOTSA meetings.

5. How we get information to you

We send out FOTSA letters which you will find in your child's book bag and on the FOTSA page of the school website, which will include details of forthcoming events, and requests for help needed. We will also communicate funds raised after each event via letters.

Our FOTSA representative will also contact you, normally via email, on a regular basis to let you know of what help is required and to send out reminders for events. Please provide your details in the questionnaire at the back of this booklet..

6. How you can help FOTSA

There are lots of ways in which you can help FOTSA, even if you don't have a lot of spare time or are unable to come to school on a regular basis. There are plenty of jobs which you can help out with, be it wrapping gifts for the Christmas fayre or helping out with raffle tickets. Any help offered is very much appreciated, and we couldn't achieve what we do without the help of our lovely parents.

If you would like to be more involved, you are welcome to become a FOTSA representative for your child's class, or a committee member. You could even just provide your ideas for future fundraising events as we are always looking for fresh ideas.

If you have any contacts or skills you could offer, we would be very happy to hear from you.

There is a brief questionnaire at the back of this booklet which we would be very grateful if you could complete and return to us if you are able to help in anyway.

If you have any questions, or anything you would like to communicate to FOTSA, please email ***fotsathorpeschool@gmail.com***

Thank you for your time