



FBSA Newsletter 8 – October 2017

Welcome to our latest FBSA Newsletter. The summer has passed by in a blink of an eye and the new academic year is well underway and on that note the FBSA would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our new children and parents who have recently joined the Flax Family. We have a busy term planned with lots of fundraising activities so do read on to get our dates in your diary!

Meet the FBSA team (2017-18)

I am delighted to confirm this academic year's FBSA team as follows:

Your Core Committee

<i>FBSA Chair</i>	Lisa Campbell
<i>FBSA Secretary</i>	Sally James
<i>FBSA Treasurer</i>	Katherine Falconer / Rebecca Cordina

Your Class Reps

CHESTNUT	Lucy White
	Sara Watson
MAPLE	Rebecca Cordina
	Amanda May
WILLOW	Anna Gravelle
	Monica Ogborne
BEECH	Suzy Ferguson
	Nic Carter
OAK	Sarah Manning
	Carmen Meira-Garcia

If you have any suggestions for future fundraising ideas, want something raised at our meetings, or have any questions for the FBSA please do let your individual class reps know.

FBSA Focus 2017-18

So what do we spend all our hard earned fundraising on? To give you a bit of an idea, on an annual basis we support school with around £4k on "every day" items such as class wish lists (each class has a budget of £250 to spend as they wish); school trips (each class has £80 in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms to go towards trip expenditure); whole school events & workshops (such as Mr G's Science Workshop); leavers gifts; and general smaller gifts (such as the Easter Treasure Hunt and Christmas Crackers). We also fund specific school requests as they come up throughout the year – we have just confirmed we will be funding 'music' throughout the school for every class and pupil in 2017-18, by buying things like music lessons for Oak (Trumpet) and Beech (Ukulele); musical instruments for Willow and Chestnut; and an African Drumming Workshop for Maple. We will also shortly be funding a Christmas panto for the children to enjoy in school this year.

And on top of all that we work with school to identify particular focus areas. Last year it was the garden project (more on that later). So all the monies we raise are used to enhance the experience of every child in school and we are very proud and pleased to be able to contribute to their education and enjoyment throughout their time at Flax.

Easyfundraising update



Thanks to everyone who are now using easyfundraising when shopping. We have raised a total of **£649.47** through this which is great news, thank you! To date we have **46 people** registered to donate through easyfundraising and it would be great if we can increase this number as it's such a simple way you can raise funds without having to put any effort in. If you haven't yet started using easyfundraising here is a quick reminder...

Every time you shop on-line you can raise money for the FBSA, at no extra cost to you. Simply register at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/flaxbourtonprimaryschool> and download the "Find and Remind" feature <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/find-and-remind/>. Every time you shop you will be prompted to tick a box that means we will automatically receive a donation, often 2-5% direct from the retailer. Holidays, insurance, travel, your weekly grocery shop and, dare I mention the "C" word? Yes all that online Christmas shopping which will loom large very soon can all be placed via Easyfundraising (EF). Don't forget to register for gift aid if you are eligible as this is an easy way to boost our payments.

Garden Project Update

So we made a good start on our Garden Project last year and went from an unusable space to one that was cleared, with trees re-sited and new beds for the children to use – see before and after pics below! I am thrilled to now be able to report that we were successful in a recent funding bid and have been awarded a further £5k from the Stanscombe Quarry Fund to finish the area (we will also use some additional FBSA fundraising money). We plan to have some lovely bright furniture that can be used as an outdoor classroom and as a recreation area. We will also have some wooden arbours to allow the children to grow climbing plants and equip the potting shed with new tools. We will be looking for volunteers to help us get the last bits in place soon so do let your class reps know if you are able to join us with that!



Newly laid and planted..



...to growing up!



...Van Gogh would be proud!

Upcoming events

As always we are packing in a lot of fundraising events into our first term:

* **Flax Family Fireworks on Fri 3rd November** – our ever popular fireworks event is running for the 5th year and we very much look forward to seeing you all there at our flagship fundraising night. We are still looking for some more stewards on the night to help keep the event running smoothly (all you need to do is a don a hi-vis, answer any Q's from the public - the bar is that way and the toilets are that way! - and make sure no-one decides to breach the security fence when the display is on), so if you are coming and can help we would REALLY appreciate it!



* **Christmas Film Night – Friday 1st**

December (all children) – please look out for parentmails / advertising closer to the time!

* **Traditional Christmas Fayre – Saturday 2nd December**
2pm-5pm - SAVE THE DATE! – please look out for parentmails / advertising closer to the time!

*At the event we will start our annual **Toy Sale** so do please bring in contributions for that during **w/c 27th Nov** (good condition toys, games, scooters, bikes, books, DVDs etc).*

*We will also be selling **2nd hand uniform** during the fayre so again all contributions of uniform in a clean and good condition will be gratefully received!*

* **Christmas General** - as per usual your children have been working hard to design Christmas cards and gifts and order forms for these will be with you soon – parentmails to follow!

Other

* **Parentview – Have your say!** – just a reminder that you can share your view on our school on www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

This information is reviewed by both OFSTED and the

School Governing Body so if there is anything you would like to say please do add your views!

* **FBSA AGM** – we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at school on Tuesday 14th December starting at 8pm. This will be followed by a general meeting. ALL are very welcome to attend to come and see what we have done and what our plans are for this coming year!

* **Pirates of the Curry Bean DVDs** – we still have a few of these remaining – if you forgot to collect your copy at the end of the summer term, or would like a copy, do let me know and I can get this sorted out for you!

Reminder dates for your DIARY!

Fri 3 rd Nov	Flax Family Fireworks 5.30pm
Tues 14 th Nov	FBSA AGM & Meeting – 8pm School
Fri 1 st Dec	Flax Christmas Film Club 3.30pm-5.30pm
Sat 2 nd Dec	Flax Christmas Fayre – 2pm – 5pm School

We look forward to your continued support at all our fundraising efforts in 2017-18 and to kicking them off with a bang this Friday!

Lisa

& the FBSA team!

