

Friends of Ellingham

Newsletter – December 2015

Dear parents,

Christmas Fair Success!

We are incredibly pleased to announce that this year we broke our Christmas Fair record. Thanks to everyone's donations, assistance and support we raised a grand total of £3,190.65 that's £450.00 more than last years!

We also had a new Panto company come in to entertain the kids last week, and on Wednesday we'll have our wonderful Year 6 Elves handing out our Santa presents to all the kids. We hope they enjoy them!

Pantos, presents and fairs, not to mention Ellingham Life TV are just a few of the things we do and, as I always say, we just CAN'T do it without YOU!

Which leads me to a very important announcement.

New Year- New Organisation- New Volunteers

In our last newsletter I mentioned that Zoe and I would be stepping back from our roles as Chair and Vice Chair. We would still continue to be very active volunteers but we're not able to continue with the organisational duties as they stand.

This is where YOU come in.

Friends of Ellingham have already committed to provide Easter eggs for the children, two school discos and a Panto for next year, all of which Zoe and I will gladly organise and facilitate.

However any other events, including the Summer Fair, will require new people to step up and take over some of the duties.

We aim to have individual team leaders who will each take charge of one particular event, with a body of active volunteers who will support them in covering a wide variety of roles. Whether that be selling tickets, refreshments, cakes or doing event posters, buying the prizes and gifts etc. You WILL be supported by Zoe and I throughout. It will be a team effort.

This means that the whole responsibility for the year's calendar of events will no longer always fall to the same small group. With less pressure / responsibility we hope we will be able to try new things, including evening events for parents.

Volunteer Forms

We are aware that some people had returned forms to the school when their children joined. If you did not receive an email from me, welcoming you, it means we did not get your form. The school do their best to support us, for which we are very grateful, but with over 380 children they can't always redirect mail for us.

Please do always use the F.O.E white mail box by reception and if you leave me your name, child's name/class, your email address, I will definitely contact you.

We will put out the new role descriptions in the New Year. If we have not had the necessary volunteers by March we will have to reconsider the future for F.O.E. and see how else we might rejuvenate the team and increase active membership. You can always leave feedback/suggestions in our mailbox too.

We enjoy working with you all to raise funds for our school. The kids are what drive us and we very much hope, that in 2016, we can continue to grow and create new events, raise more funds, treat the kids to more things and have some fun in the process. After all isn't that why it's called FUNdraising? ☺

We hope you will consider joining our team and helping us achieve those goals.

And finally,

Thank You All.

- Thank you for your donations, for spending money at our fairs, buying cakes at all the many class cake sales and more.
- Thank you to the volunteers who work so tirelessly. Who don't see the fair because they are working it. Who stand outside selling cakes in all weather and so much more.
- Thank you to all the staff who have laminated posters, set up equipment, sent out messages, helped on stalls and much more.

There is always MORE.

More that we want to do, more that we want to give the kids, more volunteers that we need to make it possible for us to do more. So, please, watch this space for further updates and details on what you can do to help F.O.E achieve more in 2016.

Thank you, and whatever you are doing for the school holidays, we hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

All our best wishes to you and yours,

Friends of Ellingham