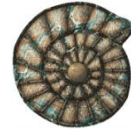


## **Welcome to Friends of St Leonards School (FOSLS)**



We hope the following information is of benefit in understanding the role and function of the PTA within the life of the school.

### **Who are FOSLS?**

FOSLS, the school PTA, is a group of volunteers who aim to raise funds through a variety of fundraising activities to benefit the school environment and enhance the children's education. In its time FOSLS has raised many thousands of pounds which have been spent on improving equipment, resources and facilities at the school.

Over the past 12 months we have raised over £6,000 through our fundraising efforts. All the money we raise is spent on items to benefit our children. In 2013/14 items funded include cameras for all class teachers, extension of Forest School, contributions to visits to the school from various organisations as well as contributions to school, early years equipment and much more.

FOSLS is however, much more than fundraising. It exists to provide closer links between home and school and is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. With the continued support of parents and staff FOSLS have always succeeded in its efforts.

### **Role of the Committee**

The PTA committee consists of four officers (chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary) and around 8 other members. The group usually meets once every half term to discuss spending and fundraising ideas. Everyone is very welcome to come along to any of the meetings and new members and ideas are always welcome.

The AGM is held at the beginning of the autumn term and this is an opportunity for all parents to come along and hear more details about events run, funds raised and how the money has been spent. It is also the occasion when we elect our new committee.

### **How we raise money?**

The majority of our funds are raised through events that we run. These include the Summer Fayre, Easter Bingo, End of Term Discos, Bonfire and Firework Night and the Talent Show. We also get involved in initiatives such as Bags2School and personalised tea towels, calendars, cards and much more.

### **Charity Status**

It is a legal requirement that organisations such as ours, with an annual income in excess of £5,000 to register with the Charity Commission. As a charity we are bound by a constitution that sets the rules about how we operate as a PTA and how we conduct ourselves. Being a charity allows us to apply for gift aid, which can earn us an extra 25p in every £1 donated, raise funds from grant giving trusts and take advantage of charity matched giving schemes.

### **How can you get involved?**

There are many ways you can help and support your child through the PTA. Offering to help before events or at other times of the year is so valuable – it really is a case of many hands make light work. It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you can't come to school, there are always jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. baking cakes for a stall or preparing raffle tickets. We could not achieve what we do without all the unseen helpers throughout the school.

You can, of course, volunteer to be a committee member. As children move through the school and on to secondary school so do parents, therefore new members are always needed. If you would like to join the committee please look out for the next meeting date which will be advertised on the weekly "What's on" and the school website.

Please feel free to speak to any of the committee members for more information on joining the committee or helping out at one of the fundraising events.