



# Friends of Southover School PTA NEWSLETTER

January 2025  
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## Happy New Year!

It seems such a long time ago now that we held the Christmas Fair. I apologise for taking you back to Christmas in January, we just wanted to say how pleased we were that the fair made **£2,602.60** for the children.

It was the first year in a while that we have held the fair indoors, following feedback from parents and volunteers that it was too cold outdoors. How typical that we had the mildest day I have ever known since volunteering at this event. You can always rely on British weather to throw you a curveball!

While feedback has been positive, we still have some improvements to make. The

Christmas Fair initially felt incredibly busy until crowds dispersed a bit. The PTA is continually trying to improve its events and take on feedback, and we still have work to do to strike a happy balance.

We enjoyed seeing so many children having so much fun making biscuits, dressing as elves and visiting our amazing Santa. While it's getting more and more difficult each year to keep costs of stalls low to make our fair affordable and inclusive, I'm thrilled that again this year we were able to charge just £1 per child to see Santa, and for them to have a gift too. There aren't many Christmas events featuring such a wonderful grotto for that price.

Thank you to everyone that came to the fair, bought from our stalls, drank our

mulled wine, and volunteered to help out. Congratulations to our hamper and prize winners too.

It was lovely to see the chair of governors attending our event - and she had this to say about the PTA:

*"The board of governors would like to thank you very much for your continued commitment and support this year. Your hard work in putting together memorable events for the whole school not only raised much-needed funding for so many things, but also help build a strong community where children and their families have fun and feel safe. Once again, thank you for all you do for the school and for always going the extra mile supporting the best possible start in life for all the children. It is much appreciated."*

## GIFT AMNESTY

If you have been lucky enough to receive a gift this year, but you know you will never really use it or appreciate it, please consider passing it on to The Friends of Southover Primary School. We can use them as prizes for future fundraising.

POP THEM IN OUR BLACK DONATION BIN LOCATED AT THE POTTERS LANE ENTRANCE

## January gift amnesty

Each year we collect unwanted gifts from you to use in our raffles and events. Please pop any unwanted gifts in the black PTA donation bin at the Potters Lane entrance or hand to one of us.

## Spending stories...

**£212.00** books for Santa's visit

**£165.42** new clothes rails for Preloved

**£37.99** on a hot plate for our events



### Christmas jumpers

We still want them! Before you pack Christmas away we'd love it if you could donate your unwanted Christmas jumpers for us to keep until next Christmas. They can be popped in the black donation bin at the Potters Lane entrance.

### Situations vacant

**Gazebo coordinator:** We'd still love a parent to step up to become an expert on all things gazebo! It basically involves setting them up and then ensuring they get packed away correctly with the help of the PTA.



### Roles filled

Thank you to Helen Barr who has stepped up to be our new events coordinator. We are so excited to now have a little events team for the school. With the support of the PTA, Katy Lyons, and Marisa Daly, we are looking forward to having enough pairs of hands to bring some different events to the school, so watch this space! Thank you Helen for stepping up to create lots more fun for the school community.

Thanks also to Hannah Meloy who will be looking after our cakes sales until the end of the school year.

### PTA piggybank update...

Funds received

Christmas Fair: **£2,602.60**

Vinted sales: **£7**

Any regular donations: **£120**

JustGiving: **£14.96**

Preloved uniform sale: **£108.20**

Christmas jumper sale: **£88**

Clothes recycling: **£69.40**



### Coming up...

#### PTA meeting:

**Tuesday 14 January, 7.30pm (The Black Horse)**

We will be going over the Christmas fair and planning for the Family Fun Night. Come along and make a difference to the school.

#### Family fun night:

**Sunday 26 January**

Save the date for fun and games for all the family.

#### Preloved uniform and cake sale:

**Thursday 13 February**

After school in the playground.

### Keeping in touch

To be kept informed on all the community and fundraising events, you can follow our Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/122360454487514>

You can find past newsletters here: <https://www.southoverprimary.co.uk/the-friends-of-southover-primary-school-pta>

If you are new to the school and you haven't yet been included in your child's school class WhatsApp, please contact the PTA on [southoverfriendspta@gmail.com](mailto:southoverfriendspta@gmail.com) and we will endeavour to get you connected.

## Regular Giving

We would be so grateful for a regular donation to the school, please find the details and link on how to do so here. Regular donations help us plan our income and are a great way to contribute if you can't help in other ways... <https://www.justgiving.com/friendsofsouthoverps>



## Regular Giving

**The EASIEST way to contribute towards your child's education at Southover!**

▶ Regular donations make a very real difference to the amount raised by the Friends of Southover to support our school. ◀

### A little goes a long way

**£3**  
a month  
the same as a cup of coffee

**£10**  
a month  
the same as a box of beer

**£20**  
a month  
the same as a round of drinks

If each household in the school contributed just £3 a month, we would raise nearly £8,000 more every year!

### How to set up your donation

- ▶ **Online:** Use our online fundraising platform at <https://www.justgiving.com/friendsofsouthoverps>
- ▶ **By standing order:** Friends of Southover, sort code: 60-13-09, account number: 42359074



We of course welcome one-off donations. You can donate by scanning the QR code here.

## And finally...

We have some exciting new ideas and events in the planning stages and we hope to make 2025 a fantastic fundraising feat. As a reminder, we are a small dynamic team of volunteers and we are so welcoming of new input. Please do come forward to chat about any ideas you have and if we can make it happen together, we will.

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter,

**Carolyn, Kate & Hannah.**



**Carolyn Sparks**  
Chair & Communications



**Kate Land**  
Secretary



**Hannah Fielding**  
Treasurer