



The Friends of Syresham School

Syresham St James School
High Street,
Syresham,
Northamptonshire,
NN13 5HL
Registered Charity Number 1030877

Dear Parent,

Firstly, we would very much like to offer you a **warm welcome to Syresham School** ... And secondly because we're a friendly bunch **we'd like to introduce ourselves** and tell you some key information about the Friends of Syresham School, how you can help us, and what's in it for you. We'll try to keep this brief because we know only too well how daunting it can be starting a new school and how much information there is to take on board!

As you will probably have already guessed, The Friends of Syresham School are essentially the PTA (that's the Parent Teacher Association). We are a lively and enthusiastic group of parents and volunteers who share a common objective... to try to support the school in whatever way we can. This mostly (but not exclusively) takes the form of raising as much money as we can for the school, to enhance, enrich and improve the children's overall experience here... we like to think, by and large, that we do a pretty good job!

Why does the School have a PTA?

Over the past few years we have raised tens of thousands of pounds and have successfully helped to fund the purchase of the timber-trail, the nursery outdoor play area, virtual reality experience day, French lessons for the whole school, books, iPads, the kitchen garden, outdoor classrooms, dining tables, playground markings, IT resources, sports equipment... the list literally goes on. Without the money we raise there simply wouldn't be the funds available to pay for all these things ... the "extra things" that make your child's life at Syresham School that bit more exciting and memorable (...For more information on where the money has been spent in the past 12 months please take a look at the attached leaflet).

We also do our best to try and bring the communities of school and home closer together through the various events that we run... because it makes sense for parents to be involved in the life of their chosen school.

Lastly, we're here for the simple reason that we want to get together socially, meet new people and have fun!

We are a committee of around 16 volunteers (approximately 2- 4 volunteers per year group ... depending on the year size!). We might sound like an abstract group of people, but we're all parents... with different pressures, different commitments, different circumstances and just like you, not so long ago, we were new too!

What is it that we do?

For a small village school we are currently very fortunate to have a high proportion of parents willing to get involved... which allows us to run a varied and fun packed calendar of events for the children. This includes Film Nights, Fireworks & Bonfire Party, The Christmas Fayre, Family Bingo Nights, School Discos, Easter Egg Hunts and The May Day Fete. We also run events for just the grown ups... Pub Socials, Curry Nights, Mums Quiz Nights, DIY SOS days and a Summer Ball!

How we keep you up-to-date with our activities?

Facebook ... you can follow our page on Facebook for notices about upcoming meetings, as well as reminders about events and requests for volunteers.

Book bags... look out for flyers and notices in book bags, particularly on a Friday!

Newsletter... we will often put a bit in the weekly newsletter on a Friday about up coming events.

Noticeboard... there is a Friends of Syresham School noticeboard which regularly gets updated.

WhatsApp... each year group has a WhatsApp group set up by the Friends Year Rep... this is an unofficial but invaluable source of information between parents from lost PE kits to updates on the Friends events!

How you can get involved?

The more people become involved, the more we can achieve and the easier it will be.

Even if you have younger children at home, or only a small amount of time, could you come to a meeting, help set up an event, serve food or design a poster? Perhaps you have a professional skill you could help us out with? You don't have to come into the school; many of our volunteering tasks can be done from home. There are all sorts of weird and wonderful ways to lend a hand!

Contact details

We'd really love to hear from you... Lisa Gregory and Claire Turnham (Lena and Josh's Mums) have kindly offered to be a point of contact for any new parents wanting information about the Friends of Syresham School and our various activities. Please do feel free to get in touch if you have any questions!

Thank you!

The Friends of Syresham School. x