

## Friends of Capenhurst Newsletter March 2018.

Budget cuts for schools are at the forefront of the news at the moment. The last edition of Rightstart (my daughter's Tumble Tots magazine) had an article mentioning there are schools out there being put in the position of requesting regular donations from parents - these are not simply by way of buying raffle tickets or attending events but regular direct debit style £30 per month contributions simply to prop up the school budget. Reading this brought home yet again to me how important the work is that all our parents do to fundraise for our school. We are well aware that there are some families who simply can't afford to contribute as regularly as others. It makes our efforts even more important especially in such an inclusive school, so that no child should miss out for any reason.

The Friends of Capenhurst are a small group of parent volunteers who work hard alongside Mrs Green and the rest of the teaching staff to organise events that both raise money for the school and bring us together as a community.

**Meet the Team:** Currently, Friends of Capenhurst consists of Mrs Green, Jackie Henson, Nicky Oakley, Emma Broomfield, Jenny Downes, Tina Lowe and Mary Osborne. We are all very friendly, passionate for the cause and not at all scary so please do feel free to approach any one of us on the play ground if you have any questions or ideas! We are a very small number and would love for more parents to join us. You don't have to come to every meeting, you don't have to help out at every event and there is a creche provided at the meetings so there are no worries about childcare. Even if you would like to come for just one meeting please do. New faces often mean new ideas and a fresh perspective on what we already do.

**What we have achieved:** Past contributions from the Friends of Capenhurst include the climbing wall, school laptops and the interactive white boards. We regularly subsidise and occasionally completely pay for coach transport to and from school trips, most notably the coach to pantomime each year (£360 worth). This year, Capenhurst Nuclear Services kindly paid for the pantomime coach which allowed us to fund the coach for the trip to the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall instead. We have also freed up the funding to allow the Class 3 children to have clarinet lessons. Yearly FOC contributes to the Year 6 leavers' party including presents for the children.

Last term we bought waterproofs and wellies for use by Class 1 & 2 on school trips. We have also bought room dividers for use in Class 4 which provides more space for one to one and small group work.

This year, Mrs Green and the governors have purchased a new music project with the funds supplied by FOC (£640 plus VAT). Capenhurst is the first school in Cheshire to benefit from the project and as a result will also stand to benefit when subsequent schools join. The program is a highly successful, interactive music program which is tailored to specific year groups. You can read more about the program and watch it in action at <http://www.symbolsmash.com>.

Our school is very fortunate to have a dedicated and passionate teaching team that has the development and welfare of our children at the forefront of everything they do. Without the support of FOC, however, they would be unable to provide so many of the opportunities our children enjoy and which are often taken for granted. These opportunities would either cease to exist or only be available at direct cost to us the parents.

**Money Coming in:** Thank you to everyone who has supported our recent events here are the figures:

The nativity raffle: £127+£15 sweets

Tombola at Christmas Fair: £52.03

Carol service: Bottle tombola- £103.00, Raffle- £37, Drinks £35.50, biscuits- £23.

100 club: £432

Bonus Ball competition: £228.50

Secret Santa: £147.75+£52.03 from the children's tombola

Bingo evening: £344.75

## **Upcoming Events**

**Bonus Ball Competition:** The bonus ball works on the National lottery draw. Each Saturday we check which number has been drawn as the bonus ball and our winner is the person who has chosen and paid for that number. It is £1 a week to enter and is drawn every Saturday when we are in school the Monday after. If no-one has the number drawn, the prize rolls over to the week after. Currently the weekly prize up for grabs is £17 and there are numbers which have not been claimed. If you would like to be a part of this, please see Mary Osborne. For every new person that enters, the prize money goes up.

**The 100 Club:** This is drawn once a month and the prize is £35. Again it is £1 per draw- £12 for the year per number. If you would like to be a part of this, please see Jackie Henson.

**Auction:** During the next term we plan to hold an auction over Facebook where you can bid on a selection of goods and services provided, mainly, by the Friends of Capenhurst such as a night of babysitting, a romantic meal cooked at your house and a portrait of your pet. Details of the time, date and prizes will be sent out nearer the time. If you are not on Facebook, there will be the option to choose a prize and enter your maximum bid for that prize so one of us can bid for you. If you are on Facebook, do join us as there will be fun and games and you don't even need to leave the house!

Next meeting will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 3.10pm.

Thursday 29th March 2:30pm will see our first ever Easter Bunny dash involving lots of energy and chocolate eggs!

Friday 20th April is our next quiz night.

Friday 18th May sees our next Race Night held in conjunction with the Capenhurst and Ledsham Community Group. If you missed it last year may I say you don't want to miss it again!

**The Capenhurst and Ledsham Community Group:** This group consists of the school, the church, the chapel and the village hall. Events are jointly run and proceeds split four ways between the groups. As a school we not only benefit directly from their work but are also heavy users of both the church and the village hall therefore they are well worth supporting and we work closely with them.

## **Thank you**

Thank you for taking the time to read this and also for your support of our work. As always any fundraising ideas, ideas on where the money should go and offers of help big or small are greatly received. You are always very welcome to attend any of our meetings (it doesn't mean you need to attend them all and there is a crèche provided).