

Hello from the new Friends of St James

As the first half term has come and gone (didn't that go quickly!), we thought it would be a good time to round up what has been happening so far and what we are planning going forwards.

As a new PTA we have been busy learning the ropes, and discovering exactly what we need to do for the year ahead. Amongst other things we've caught up with the outgoing PTA, had a meeting with Miss Rainbow, been speaking with our sponsors and worked hard to organise our first fundraising events (not to mention attempting to sort out the masses of 2nd hand school uniform!!)



Thank you!

With your magnificent help through attendance at events, donations, cake sales, mufti days, smartie tubes, football matches and many more things, **you all helped last year's PTA to raise an outstanding £41k.** What an achievement that is – thank you to everyone involved in the events that were run, it couldn't have been done without you.

How your fundraising is being spent

The money was used to fund many wonderful projects at the school that all of our children are now benefiting from, most notably the **brand-new library** where the old IT suite used to be. During the summer holidays walls were knocked down and sky-lights were put in, and with the addition of new furniture a fantastic light and airy learning space has been created. The results are just brilliant and couldn't have been done without the funds raised by everyone at the school.



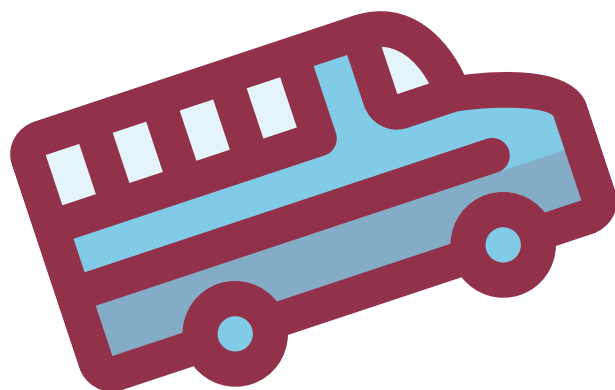
Along with the library, here are just a selection of other things money raised by the Friends has also funded:

- 30 laptops, 30 tablets and 15 ipads
- New playground equipment
- Classroom equipment and furnishings
- New reading schemes
- New football goals
- New school BBQ

What are we fundraising for next?

After chatting with Miss Rainbow, this year the Friends have been asked to help fund a St James mini-bus!

Not only will this be massively useful for small group excursions to external events such as sporting competitions, but it will also in some cases end the need to hire two coaches for whole year group trips. In short, it is hoped that the mini bus will not only be a useful commodity to the school, but that it will also help save money in the long run.



We will be discussing this request for funding at our first PTA meeting on 2nd November 2018, so if you would like to find out more, and have your say, then please do join us.

A fantastic start to our fundraising already!

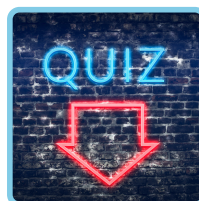
Our first fundraiser of the new school year, the Gin and Jukebox night, was a brilliant success raising an amazing £1.8k. Thank you to everyone who came along and also to everyone who helped on the night, it is very much appreciated. After picking up the PTA baton late in the day, we only had a few weeks to pull off this event.



Coming soon

We've had a chance to sit down and plan our fundraising events for the school year, and have some exciting events coming up, including a few changes on recent years. Here are just a few of the things that we are planning:

- Halloween sweetie guessing game
- Second hand school uniform sale.
- Christmas wreath making evening
- Christmas shopping evening
- Christmas fair
- Table top sale
- Infant and Junior disco
- Quiz night
- Return of the St James Ball.
- Summer fair



We are always delighted to have people helping at our events – many hands make light work! So if you can spare even a tiny bit of your time, either with planning in the lead up or helping on the day itself, we would be extremely grateful.

Equally, if you work for a company who are happy to support charities, or have friends or family with great connections to fundraising opportunities (raffle prize donations, events etc) then we would love to hear from you. P2