



*Raising money to provide the 'extras' which enrich the experience of all Thornden students as well as building partnership and community.*

Thornden has an active PTA called Friends of Thornden School (FOTS). All Thornden parents and Staff automatically are our Friends, so we'd like to extend a warm welcome to you as you join us.

Over the last 12 months, FOTS are delighted to have given just over £17,500 to resource clubs, activities and Departments at Thornden. Instead of running events, the **FOTS Gift Aid Donation Scheme** is our primary source of fundraising and, since it started in 2016, FOTS have given almost £110,000 to the school. We encourage all of our Friends, both old and new, to donate to it as it's the easiest way for busy parents to support and value their child's wider education, without any additional time commitment. If it helps, I like to think of it as a 'Pay the PTA to go away' scheme!

A regular gift of **£2, £5 or £10 a month** (or more if you'd like!) from each family in your child's Year Group would make a huge difference to the help that FOTS are able to offer the school and all its students going forwards. Clubs are **free** at Thornden, so FOTS' money supports many existing clubs and extra-curricular activities as well as funding classroom resources to support learning. As a charity, FOTS claim Gift Aid on donations, increasing their value by 25%. We run low reserves and aim to get all PTA money out and working to benefit your child as quickly as possible.

Please fill out our Gift Aid and Standing Order forms today and, if you plan to support the PTA in this way, choose a date 4 weeks ahead for your donations to start. Pop the two completed forms in an envelope addressed to the FOTS Treasurer and return them to Reception at Thornden as soon as possible or email them to FOTS. This will give the FOTS Treasurer time to process them on your behalf. Though Thornden benefits, we do emphasise that the Friends of Thornden School Gift Aid Donation Scheme is run separately from the school, has no connection with the admissions process and is entirely voluntary.

If you would enjoy being more hands on, there are also chances throughout the year to help out with our fantastic PTA team. Opportunities range from baking and serving refreshments or sorting uniform to attending our friendly team meetings.

We also encourage anyone who does online shopping to sign up to [Easyfundraising](#) or [Giveasyoulive](#), making Friends of Thornden a beneficiary. By going via these sites to major retailers, money from purchases tracks back to the

school at no extra cost to you. More information about this and further details of the Donation Scheme are on the FOTS page of the school website. We would love to have your support (whether of time or money) as we partner with the school to enhance the opportunities available to our children.

The FOTS team have a pretty wide selection of very reasonably priced second-hand uniform which they sell at a handful of events during the year. If your child is a new starter and you would like some second hand uniform then we will try to offer a more bespoke service, though please bear in mind that we are all parent volunteers and are not checking the FOTS email 24/7! Let us know at [fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk) what you require e.g. 3x34" white polos and we will aim to put together a bag for you and let you know when it is ready to collect from Thornden reception. Payment can be made in cash at reception or via the FOTS uniform tab in the Arbor shop when you get on the system.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns which you think existing Thornden parents might be best placed to answer, please contact us via our Facebook page – Friends of Thornden School or email us at [fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk](mailto:fots@thornden.hants.sch.uk) and we will do our very best to respond.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope your child (and you!) have a very positive time at Thornden.

Kind regards,

Nic and the FOTS Team