



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 £10,000+ to resource clubs, activities and Departments at Thornden. Instead of running events, we have the **FOTS Gift Aid Donation Scheme** as our primary source of PTA fundraising. We encourage all of our Friends, both old and new, to donate to it as it's the easiest way we could find to help busy parents support and value their child's wider education without any additional time commitment.

A regular gift of say **£2, £5 or £10 a month (or an amount of your choice)** from each family in your Year Group makes a huge difference to the help that the PTA are able to offer the School and all its students going forwards. Clubs are *free* at Thornden so FOTS' money supports many existing clubs, as well as funding classroom resources to support learning. As a charity, FOTS are able to claim Gift Aid on donations, increasing their value by 25%. We aim to get all PTA money out and working to benefit all students as quickly as possible.

Please find enclosed our Gift Aid and Standing Order forms. If you are able to generously support the PTA in this way, please pick a date in September when you wish your donations to start. Pop the completed forms in an envelope addressed to the FOTS Treasurer and return them to Reception at Thornden with your other forms. The FOTS Treasurer will then do everything else to process them on your behalf. We would like to 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 engaged on a more practical level, there are also chances throughout the year to **help out** with our fantastic PTA team. Opportunities range from **baking and serving refreshments** at Parents' Evenings to **attending our friendly team meetings**, whether regularly or just on a one-off occasion.

We also encourage anyone who does online shopping to sign up to **thegivingmachine** and make Friends of Thornden a beneficiary. By going via this site 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.

Traditionally, the FOTS team sell a wide selection of **second-hand uniform** at the Y6 Intake Evening - a great opportunity to pick up some spares for the year ahead. FOTS usually host a **Y7 Family Welcome Event** early in the Autumn term which provides an opportunity to meet your child's form tutor and help you and your child settle into the school. We will be in touch nearer the time with further details/ contingency plans!

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

We hope your child (and you!) will have a fantastic experience at Thornden.

Kind regards

Polly Gleeson and the FOTS team