



2 OCTOBER 2009

### October News

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**FUNDRAISING 1**

**STAFF TRAINING 1**

**THE GIVING MACHINE 2**

**SCHOOL COUNCIL 2**

**KEYBOARDS 2**

**FOOTBALL TEAM 2**

**FUNKY FOOTWEAR 2**

### FUNDRAISING, TRIPS / VISITS, IN-SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

**What do all these have in common? Yes, ££££ !!**

I find it difficult to reconcile that education is free but schools have to fundraise or ask directly for contributions, so that children's learning can be extended and enhanced from beyond the classroom.

Most schools use 'School Fund' as a way to increase their revenue and believe it or not, the average termly income collected this way, ie parents paying an amount every term, is reported to be £700.

St Laurence has a School Fund. This fund is rapidly decreasing as more goes out of it than into it. It has been used to mainly to pay for trips (especially in year 6), visits and in-house presentations (visiting theatre and music companies etc.).

And yes, we do ask for parents' contributions but on average, we only receive about 60% of the cost. School Fund has to meet the shortfall.

We don't want to stop valuable learning activities, and being mindful of the credit crunch and other factors that affect families' capacity to pay towards their children's education, we would like to make the following suggestions and welcome your comments / ideas:

**Would you be prepared to:**

- Pay the full contribution for trips / visits / if you could pay a little bit each week, even after the event?
- Support us each term with contributions 'in kind' rather than money, such as donating good quality items / books / games for wet play?
- Subscribe to an 'online' scheme where the school benefits from every online order you make (see page 2)
- Support charity fundraising activities if we limit these to no more than once a term?

We would welcome your views and any other ideas you might have. Please hand in any comments to the office / via your child's class teacher; email us at school; speak to a member of staff; make your views known at Parents' Consultation evening.

Thank you – and I'll let you know what responses we've had, and how we propose to move forward with any ideas.

### STAFF TRAINING DAY

We will have a staff training day on Monday 2nd November. Children will not be in school!

#### OUR CURRENT AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

**MONDAY  
HOMEWORK  
NETBALL**

**TUESDAY  
FOOTBALL  
CHOIR**

**WEDNESDAY  
HOCKEY**

**THURSDAY  
TENNIS**

**FRIDAY  
RUGBY**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

We now have new school councillors in years 4, 5 and 6:

Alicia Hayzelden, Brooke Thompson, Ethan Keehner, David Chapman, Georgia Norfolk, Matthew James, Imogen Collins, Joe Parrish, Jade Cox, Megan Todd, Joshua Read and Paige Milton.

Thank you to everyone who put their names forward.

I expect a busy year, with charity events, in-school projects as well as participating in Cluster council.

We will be keeping you informed of our different projects throughout the year, and hope that you will give us your ideas. We are planning to put a 'Suggestion Box' in the front hall, which we hope will be used by children, parents, staff and governors. This will be emptied once a week by the councillors, and ideas will be discussed and if possible, acted upon (we will hand on ideas which are important, but not things we can deal with ourselves).

If you already have some good ideas on how we can improve things at St. Laurence, then may we suggest putting them in a sealed envelope with 'School council' written on the front, and either giving them to your child to bring in to school, or bring it in yourselves on Parent's evening !

We look forward to working with you over the next year.

## KEYBOARD LESSONS

We may be starting keyboard lessons on Wednesdays during lunchtime if anyone is interested. There would be a small cost for this.

If you're interested please contact Mrs Penn for more details.

## FOOTBALL TEAM

The boys football team have been taking part in the Upton Football Festivals for the past three weeks. This year they have been doing very well with only 4 defeats out of 15 games! There has been some great performances from all the team at crucial points during the games and a few spectacular goals and saves.

## FUNKY FOOTWEAR

Well done everyone, we raised £126 For the Kent Air Ambulance on Funky footwear Friday. Thank you.

**amazon**  
**TESCO**  
John Lewis  
**ASDA**  
**eBay**  
**Toys R Us**  
Apple  
**B&Q**  
**PLAY.COM**  
MOVIES MUSIC GAMES  
**STAPLES**  
**PC WORLD**  
THE COMPUTER EXPERTS  
**halfords**  
**MORE TH>N**  
**NEXT** **DELL**  
**HSBC**   
The world's local bank  
Disneyland  
**Currys**  
**wallis**  
**AOL** **vodafone**

**The Giving Machine™**  
**You shop, they give to**  
**St Laurence-in-Thanel CofE (Aided)**  
**Junior School**

You can generate free cash donations for our school every time you shop online.  
It will not cost you anything extra - the online shop pays the donation on your behalf.

Just go to [www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk](http://www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk)

- **JOIN** as a shopper/giver
- **CHOOSE** to support our school
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