

FTDS SURVEY 2019

Summary of the results



F·T·D·S
FRIENDS OF TANNERY DRIFT SCHOOL

A BIG THANK YOU to the parents/carers who took the time to complete the FTDS Survey which was circulated in February.

The responses received have been invaluable to our future planning of fundraising events and activities. In summary, from the responses received, FTDS have considered and taken action in relation to the following key points:

Does FTDS run the right amount of events and charge the right amount for each event?

– **YES.** It is clear from the survey responses received that the significant majority believe that FTDS runs the right number of events throughout the year, with FTDS charging about the right amount for each event. This will continue to be kept under review.

Which events/activities are valued most/least?

- The **Christmas & Summer Fairs** and the **Discos** were valued the most, followed by **Camping**.
- **Christmas related crafts and cake sales** also remain popular. FTDS will continue to run these events and make improvements where possible in response to feedback received.
- Least valued were Sports Day Keyrings. Given the amount of large events being run by FTDS during the summer term, it has been agreed that we will not sell Sports Day keyrings this year. Alternative options will be considered for next year.
- Film nights were lower down the list of valued events however, the suggestion of arranging an Outdoor Cinema event was a popular suggestion and has been explored as an alternative event.

The introduction of new events

- There was a majority **preference for family events** as opposed to adult only events, therefore the FTDS events/activities schedule has been arranged with this preference in mind.
- There was a positive response to the proposal to hold a **Car Boot Sale**. In response, a Car Boot sale has been arranged to take place on Sunday 28th April 2019.
- Popular suggestions for new events included holding a **Quiz evening** and an **Outdoor Cinema event**.
- In response to the survey, FTDS have incorporated a **quiz element** into the **new family event - Rock and Roll Bingo**. All feedback following this event will be gratefully received.
- FTDS have started to explore the option of arranging an **Outdoor Cinema** however, the event is currently proving too expensive to run due to the hire price of the screens and is weather dependent, so is at risk of making a loss and may impact on funds already raised. FTDS will continue to explore this option.
- Other suggestions being considered for next year, include incorporating fun educational activities into existing events, for example holding a star gazing activity and/or learning about nocturnal animals at the camping event.

Summer events and alternatives

- Despite its popularity, a Summer Fair is not being held this year due to insufficient numbers of organising volunteers. This event is a large fundraiser, so by not running the event is likely to reduce our overall fundraising for this academic year.
- FTDS very much hopes that we will be able to run a summer event next year and parents/carers are encouraged to give their support to this event either by volunteering to be part of the organising team or through helping at this event.
- FTDS will be holding a **Summer Raffle** instead, with the draw taking place on the school Open Evening – Thursday 11th July 2019. Anyone who is able to provide a raffle prize donation or has with links with businesses that could, is encouraged to do so to support this event.
- FTDS is likely to assist the school with providing refreshments and other activities during the **Illyria Theatre Company production** visit to the school, scheduled to take place on Saturday 14th September 2019. More information will follow.

Summer events and alternatives

- Over 90% of the responses received indicated a preference for **online ticket sales** for ticketed events. FTDS is looking into how we can set up online ticket sales and manage it fairly.
- Survey results received a mixed response as to when people would prefer tickets to go on sale.
- It is clear that whatever decision is made, it will not suit all but FTDS will use its best endeavours to set up the fairest system available, with the aim of giving parents/carers advance warning and reminders, so that everyone has a fair chance to purchase tickets for events, particularly when tickets are limited (e.g for Christmas Fair activities).

- Discos being split into Foundation stage and Yrs1-4 have so far enabled this event to be inclusive, with ticket sales not yet running out. This will be kept under review as the school grows in numbers.

Tannery tea towels/eco bags

- There was a majority interest in the continued sale of tea towels and the alternative 'eco bag' personalised by the children. 50% indicated no preference as to when these are sold during the year and of those who indicated, Christmas was the preferred selling point.
- On this basis, FTDS intends to repeat this event for Christmas 2019, together with the personalised Christmas mugs, cards and gift tags which the survey concluded remain popular purchases and are often bought as Christmas presents.

Suggested changes to existing events

- Over half of the responses received had no suggestions for specific changes to existing events. Of the remaining responses, suggestions included:
 - More shade being available in the summer
 - More choice of food at the summer fair
 - Making the Christmas fair less chaotic, with the set up of stalls being arranged for easier access
 - Varying the days of events, particularly those held on a Friday, so that working parents can attend
 - Reduction of single use plastic
 - The introduction of events welcoming new parents/carers, to enable them to get to know one another.

What action FTDS has taken in response to suggested change

- FTDS is looking to fundraise shaded areas for children during the summer months, for use during summers events and break times. FTDS has previously purchased x2 large Gazebos however, there is a consensus that more permanent shading options would be beneficial for the children. Fundraising is likely to be targeted over the next academic year to fund these larger, more expensive items.

- The Christmas and Summer Fair committees will be taking on board positive and negative feedback received when arranging future events, with a view to making improvements to make these events more enjoyable and inclusive for all.
- FTDS has explored the option of varying the date of events, to enable more working parents to attend. For example, for the cake/uniform sales which are held on a termly basis. Indoor events are currently subject to the availability of the school hall, with Fridays currently being the only available option. There is a potential for events to be held on varying days, if they are held outdoors during the summer term. Alternative options will continue to be explored.
- Reduction of single use plastic is ongoing, with alternatives being sourced. FTDS has introduced the use of the children's own water bottles to Discos (as opposed to plastic cups) and no longer uses plastic bags at cake sales. Future stock for discos and events will also follow this aim.
- FTDS is happy to arrange an event with the aim of welcoming new parents/carers and encouraging them to get to know each other at the start of each academic year.

Why volunteers help/are unable to help at events

- The majority who wanted to be involved with FTDS volunteered when they could in order to support the school and be part of their children's experience at Tannery. Many found that by joining the committee or the helpers list, they had a greater opportunity to meet other parents/carers at the school and be part of the school community, which they found to be both enjoyable and rewarding.
- Understandably, work and family commitments tended to be the main reason given discouraging people from joining the committee or helping at events.

How you can help!

- FTDS continues to welcome more suggestions, ideas and any links with businesses which can contribute to these events, particularly if they have a fun educational element.
- FTDS is seeking a new volunteer to take on the committee secretary role from the period commencing September 2019. The current Secretary is happy for a new volunteer(s) to shadow this role before handover.