

FRIS PTFA Meeting

9 January 2026

9am Staff Room

Attendees:	Ms Sephton	Alice (Co-chair)
Linda (Treasurer)	Becci (Secretary)	Shelly
Lyndsey	Michelle	Netta
Apologies:	Ema	Daniella
Victoria	Gill	Nicole

MS welcomed everyone and hoped all had enjoyed Christmas and New Year. She praised the success of last term's events, noting how smoothly everything ran and how memorable the experiences were for the children. All attendees agreed.

Overview

AK started with a round up of last terms events:

Elfridges (Christmas gift shop): ran very well however there wasn't a large range of gifts for boys. With that in mind and the recent sales in stores, FRIS PTFA has already bought 600 Elfridges gifts for Christmas 2026. These have more variety for boys, siblings, and adults.

Breakfast with Santa: Everyone commented how fabulous our Santa was with engaging with the children, giving them all a wonderful experience. It was also said that he was better than Santa's PTFA parents had paid to see over the Christmas period! It was agreed that he is fantastic, and needed another big 'Thank you' from our FRIS community as well as FRIS PTFA.

AK added that for 2026, we would like to gift every child with a Santa hat by leaving one on their place setting so they can wear them throughout their BWS experience. As they can take them home, they can be re-worn at the FRIS Santa Dash. MS and all attendees agreed how lovely this would be for the children.

Figures

AK handed over to LM for an overview of the figures from last term:

Autumn Disco: £531.86 profit, up £115.81 on last year

BWS: £561.82 lower than last year because of renewing props.

Christmas Fair: £876.14, up 5% on last year.

Elfridges: £1,472.95 profit, but 50 less gifts sold on last year.

Pay it forward: £322.00, which was split over the events of last term to allow as many children to experience events as possible.

Easy Fundraising: £137.08 so far this 2025/26 year.

It was noted that the fundraiser could be promoted more widely, as the school receives £1 for every new member who signs up. BL offered to create a poster for all classroom doors so parents can scan the QR code and learn more about the fundraiser while waiting at pick-up times.

In addition, it was suggested that highlighting how to enable prompts within the app would help remind shoppers when a participating brand will donate to the school. A simple step-by-step guide was agreed to be useful.

MS mentioned that many parents may currently be planning holidays, so she will post an advertisement on DoJo to remind families to donate when booking trips.

It was also noted that some donations are only triggered when purchases are made directly through a brand's website rather than through the app. This is important for parents to keep in mind, especially when booking holidays.

Money raised so far: £3,339.45 which everyone agreed was amazing!

This is less the expenses: ParentPay fees / advanced DJ bookings for discos for the year / Christmas 2026 gifts in advance. It also includes the cost of the selection boxes (and alternatives) to every child totalling £487.24.

AK thanked the whole PTFA team for all their hard work, especially as we are not a quiet PTA but the children love it!

MS congratulated the PTFA team for the money raised so far, adding a massive thank you from the school. The children have enjoyed all the activities, and all the effort given from FRIS PTFA is very much appreciated!

Upcoming events

MS advised that a page of the next newsletter will be given to FRIS PTFA to showcase all posters for events this term. This will allow parents to see what is coming up. Reminders of events will be given on Dojo and newsletters nearer the event date.

Autumn Disco – Thursday 12 February 2026

Last term, we acted on feedback from previous discos and moved the Year 2 start time to 3:45. This gave children a chance to eat their snacks before the disco, allowing more time for dancing. MS supervised the Year 2 door from 3:45 to 4:00, and most children arrived around 3:50, which still gave them plenty of time for their treats. This arrangement worked well, and the children enjoyed having more time on the dance floor.

For the Autumn Disco, MS confirmed she will be on the Year 2 door from 3:50 so children can go straight into class for their snacks. The disco will officially begin at 4:05.

However, feedback highlighted two recurring issues. First, the gap between arrival and the start of the disco felt too long for excited children. Second, there continues to be very limited time for parents to collect children, get them changed, and return for the Year 2 disco. This challenge is common because the Year 2 disco takes place after school.

MS addressed this by explaining that Year 2 teachers are already staying beyond their working hours to support the disco, whereas Reception and Year 1 discos take place during the school day. Asking Year 2 teachers to keep pupils in class, help them get changed, and then attend the disco would be an unreasonable additional burden, especially as they are already volunteering their time.

Set up time: MS advised that due to after school clubs, she will let us know when is best.

Times: Reception 2:25 to 3:05 Yr 1 3:15 to 3:55 Yr2 3:50 to 4:55

Treats: Love heart sweets (allergy-friendly), crisps and a drink.

Price: £3.00

ParentPay Open: Friday 16 January

ParentPay Close: Friday 13 January

All in attendance agreed on the above.

Smarties Challenge – February Half Term

Each child will receive a tube of Smarties to enjoy. Once the tube is empty, they are encouraged to help others, use kind hands, and lend a hand at home in exchange for small coins. The money they earn goes back into their Smarties tube, ready to be returned to school after the break.

We currently have 243 tubes and still need to purchase 180 more.

BL encouraged everyone to let her know if they spot a good deal on Smarties

Given out to teachers: Monday 9 February. This allows teachers to give them out when they can before half term. It will also help with nursery as the teachers will know when to hand them out for pupils who are on the start and end of the week.

Alternatives: Million sweeties as they were allergy friendly, with a pouch attached for their donation.

Date to receive tubes by: Friday 27 February.

All present at the meeting, agreed to the above,

World Book Day: This event has been dropped due to the school having a number of reading events and activities planned for the children, as 2026 is National Reading Year.

Mother's Day Shop: Wednesday 11 March

The aim for this event is to allow the children to pick gifts for their loved ones, however this is all dependant on the number of volunteers. If there are not enough helpers, the children will be given the gift to take home.

AK advised that a poll will be created in the main PTFA group to see how many people are able to help. Once this is known a date for ParentPay to go live for the event will be confirmed.

Location: Studio

Timings: MS advised she will send these over at a later date.

Set up: From 9am due to Fun4Kidz using the room before school.

Price: £3.00 per gift

ParentPay on: Friday 16 January

ParentPay off: Wednesday 4 March due to advanced planning

Pupil Premium totals: MS advised that she will give 38 places.

An invite will go out to the parents/guardians advising their child has a free gift for their loved one, before the event goes live on ParentPay.

All present at the meeting agreed to the above.

Easter Fair / Egg Tombola / Egg Competition: Wednesday 25 March

These events run simultaneously through our the school day. A discussion was had around the stalls at the fair saying that we could mix it up this year. It was settled that although we think the stalls need renewing, some children look forward to the same games. One game that will need rethinking is 'Knock the bunnies' as the inflatables did not work well. AK asked everyone to let her know if they had any ideas of Easter themed games.

Location: Hall

Set up: MS will confirm nearer the time due to after school clubs running

Stalls: Face paint / find the chicks / pin the tail on the bunny / Guess the eggs / Name the bunny / craft table etc.

Prizes: AK will confirm prizes we already have, and will stock up if needed. LM advised Adventure Coast donated a voucher for a family of four, this will be used as the prize for 'Guess how many eggs in the jar'.

Price: £3.00

ParentPay: Friday 16 January

ParentPay off: Thursday 26 March

Easter Egg Tombola: We will ask families to donate a chocolate egg in exchange for children wearing their own clothes on the day of the fair. ND noted that some parents may not realise their child will receive an egg to take home, which could make them hesitant to donate.

To avoid confusion, it was agreed that the event poster will clearly state that every child will win an egg to take home on the day of the fair. During the fair, children will pick a number from the tombola drum and receive the egg that corresponds to that number on the table. To ensure inclusivity, children with allergies will select a number from a separate drum. They will still receive the egg matching their chosen number, placed on a dedicated section of the table to prevent any mix-ups with standard eggs.

Deadline for egg donations: Wednesday 18 March, to allow time for any late donations before the event.

Decorate an Egg Competition: Children are invited to take part in our annual Decorate an Egg Competition for 50p. They can create an egg-based scene or simply decorate an egg in any

style they choose. Eggs may be polystyrene, hard-boiled, wooden, or plastic—whatever works best for their design. It's a fun, creative activity for families to enjoy together at home, and all entries will have the chance to win a prize.

Entries will be judged on the day of the fair by MS.

In previous years, the decorated eggs were displayed at the back of the hall, which made it difficult to identify which year group each entry belonged to. To make judging clearer and fairer this year, all eggs will be displayed on year-group tables.

The event poster will highlight the importance of clearly labelling every entry with the child's name and class number

Entry in by: Wednesday 25 March, day of the fair

Prizes: Northwood donated a hamper to FRIS which was used as an overall prize. LS, who works for them, advised that Northwood could donate smaller prizes to be used for the competition.

Easter Bunny Visit: Last year FRIS PTFA had their own Easter Bunny visit the children, hopping around handing out sweets to everyone. MS added how much the pupils enjoyed the visit.

Date: Friday 27 March.

After a discussion, it was decided that it would be a lovely experience for the children for the Easter bunny to visit on the last day of term.

Time: This will be decided nearer the time.

Bunny: Feedback from last year was that our Bunny was amazing, and will be asked for a repeat performance.

All in attendance, agreed to the above and thanked LS and Northwood for the donations.

Any other business

Bid Box: At the last meeting, it was agreed to reinstate the Bid Box for the 2025/26 school year. BL explained that the FRIS PTFA introduced this system last year to give all staff the opportunity to propose smaller initiatives they feel would benefit pupils, separate from the PTFA's main funded projects. When a bid is approved, a photo is taken with the teacher and a large cheque, which is then shared in the newsletter to show families how their donations directly support the school.

Biding is open until: Thursday 16 April 2026

Discussion on all bids: Friday 17 April.

Winners announced: Monday 20 April

MS added a photo is needed for a bid from last year that was accepted. AK confirmed it will be taken soon as the teacher works mornings.

All in attendance agreed to this.

Food Donations: A question was raised about whether parents could donate unopened, in-date chocolates and sweets to PTFA events if they had surplus at home. Following discussion, it was agreed that any suitable food items should instead be donated to local food banks.

Closing

AK thanked everyone once again for their participation. They added that the FRIS PTFA welcomes all families and encouraged everyone to get involved. Anyone interested in volunteering can request a DBS form from the school office.

Next meeting: Friday 17 April, 9am. Please sign in at the school office.

Notes prepared by Becci Laird, FRIS PTFA Secretary