

## £50 cash is top prize at fun day raffle

The TSA family fun Friday on 7 July will have fun activities, a treasure hunt, junk modelling and facepainting, honesty book stall and a raffle on the day with some great prizes.

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon for the whole family – and with the usual offering of BBQ and lots of savoury bakes and cakes, that's dinner taken care of, too!

As usual, we can do with a few extra hands, so read on...

## Cakes and bakes and a few helpers needed

Please help by contributing cakes or savoury bakes. Bring them along on Friday morning or when you come along in the afternoon. If possible, please tell us if what you bring is suitable for vegetarians, or egg/nut/dairy/gluten-free – thanks!

### CAN YOU...

- ☺ help sell cakes and refreshments?
- ☺ lend a hand on the BBQ?
- ☺ join the facepainting gang?
- ☺ help set up (from 2.30pm)?

We'll ask for help on the TSA Facebook page but you can also leave your name at the office or talk to all the usual suspects (and a few new ones) in the playground if you want to help.



## RAFFLE PRIZES

(in no particular order)

### Top prize: £50 cash!

- \* Avengers Assemble story collection
- \* Barrett & Co Photography voucher
- \* Kids'n Action family entry
- \* Silhouette cutting voucher
- \* 'Return to Work' workshop
- \* 90-day CHF membership
- \* Solar system floor puzzle
- \* CHF 30-min massage
- \* 10 CHF softplay visits
- \* Bottle of champagne

## New TSA Chair!

Unbelievably, it's been four months since the last newsletter. Perhaps it's just a sign of just how busy everyone's been – or just how low the numbers of people who were trying to plan and run events in the first term of 2017!

What a joy therefore to report that we have a new chair at last. **Congratulations, Helen Jones!** Mum of Dylan (Year 3) and Megan (Reception), Helen has valiantly stepped up, taking over from Gerry, who has been a hugely engaged and committed chair. **THANK YOU, GERRY,** for the amazing work you have done for the TSA and Thameside in general over the last couple of years.

We are also pleased to welcome Yulia Bosklopper (mum of Roman and Maria, Reception, and Sophia, Year 2), who takes over from Tara Lehane as treasurer.

## SHOCK – SUMMER FAIR CANCELLED!

It was with great disappointment that at the first TSA meeting with Helen at the helm on 26 April the committee had to make the tough decision to cancel the summer fair. This is a sad first, and a reflection of how difficult it is to run these big events without enough parents engaged in regular, committed support of the TSA.

The funds raised by summer fairs make up a large chunk of the annual total, which has in the past helped to fund the library, the stage lighting and the outdoor classroom, to name just a few of the bigger projects. Not least, the money raised by TSA events like this goes towards subsidising trips and other activities for every class through the annual enrichment fund. Lose the event, and it becomes much more difficult for the school to subsidise trips and activities in this era of sharply squeezed school budgets.

To make up for the lost summer fair it was decided to have a smaller event, an after-school

fun day (see poster overleaf!), mainly to make it up to Thameside children who will otherwise lose out on having a whole-school summer event. There'll be some of the favourites and a pretty impressive on-the-day raffle (see over for list of prizes).

## RECORD NUMBERS AT TSA MEETING

The shock of not having a summer fair and the TSA's rather desperate plea for more committee volunteers seems to have had an effect though. The May TSA meeting saw record attendance with lots of new faces, including some fabulously keen parents of children not even at Thameside yet!

We're rather hoping that this is a turning point and will bring lots of new ideas and initiative to TSA meetings, and more support from on-the-day volunteers for big events. The Christmas Fair later this year will be the testing ground for this – in the absence of the summer fair, it will be this year's biggest and most important fundraising event.

## Cake Sale stats

Year 4 managed to turn a corner in the downward cake sale trends and raised a respectable £194.57. Reception then went on to sell a whopping £238.69 worth of cakes.

The final cake sale of the year will be on **Wednesday 19 July**. Year 3 families, we look forward to lots of lovely cakes and hope you'll also help sell on the day.

