12 November 2026

Friends of Hillshott committee update and plans for 2026/27

Dear Families,

Following our Friends of Hillshott (FoH) Annual General Meeting on 7 October and our subsequent meeting on 4 November, we would like to introduce ourselves as the new FoH committee for the 2026/27 school year:

- Chair: James Ludley (daughter in Barn Owls)
- Treasurer: Giedre Dobrovolske (daughter in Robins)
- Secretary: Jodie Irwin (son in Kingfishers)

Friends of Hillshott is our parent-teacher association, made up of parents, carers and staff working together to fund extra equipment and activities that sit outside the school budget and to help enhance Hillshott for all the children who attend.

First, we want to say a big thank you to Hannah, Heather, Meera and Steve, who have now stood down from their roles. In recent years, they have put a huge amount of effort into organising events and running the association for the school community.

Thanks to the hard work of the outgoing committee and your support across last year's events, FoH provided more than £12,800 of funding to the school during the 2025/26 year.

Most notably, we reached our main fundraising target for the year, which saw the new Year 1 outdoor learning space completed over the summer with the installation of the canopy. Alongside this project, funds raised over the past year paid for a new Nursery playhouse, library books, a wish list resources for every year group, covered trolleys for outdoor equipment, a medieval workshop, ingredients for One World Week class recipes, litter picking equipment for the school council, Year 2 leavers celebrations, and chicken costumes for the Christmas play. In previous years, FoH

has also helped revamp the main playground markings and provided tablets and equipment for the SEND sensory room.

With the Year 1 canopy now finished, there are no major purchases or projects that the school needs at the moment. This makes 2026/27 a helpful period and opportunity to top the FoH pot back up, so we are ready to work with the school on future enhancements that we can afford to manage and support.

Our fundraising activities for 2026/27 will be weighted towards 2027. Running our events is only possible with the support of parents and carers who get involved each year. You can join the committee or help out at individual events when you have spare time, and it is a good way to meet other families and support the school.

Our next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 9 December at 8pm at the Broadway Hotel, Letchworth**. It is a chance to come together and plan what we want to do in 2027 to support the school. Everyone is welcome to join us.

If you would like to join us at our next meeting, help at an upcoming event or ask any questions about our work, just get in touch and drop us a message via friendsofhillshott@hotmail.com.

Before we break up for the end of term, we will wrap up 2026 with our final fundraiser of the year. Organised together by FoH and the school, the **Children's Christmas Shopping Day and Festive Bake Sale will take place on Monday 14 December**. This is always a favourite activity for the children. During the day, classes will visit the Christmas Market in the hall to choose two small gifts for their family, have a drink and snack, and see Father Christmas. **On the day, please send your child into school with a named shopping bag and £3 to purchase their gifts.** We will also hold a festive bake sale after school. Look out for full details separately.

We look forward to working with you this year and thank you in advance for your continued support.

James, Giedre, and Jodie
Friends of Hillshott Committee