



## **A Little Bit About Friends**

This information has been put together by Friends of Foulsham School especially for you, either as a returning family or a new family joining our school community. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved! This letter provides you with information about Friends of Foulsham School and lets you know how you can join in.

### **Why do we have Friends?**

We are fortunate at our school to have Friends, which over the last few years has been an integral part of the school community. The money we have raised so far has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities as well as helping to fund the travel costs of educational visits and of course fun entertainment for the children.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. Friends exists to provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It's fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers.

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available

### **Role of the Committee**

Our Committee consists of a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary & Ordinary Committee Members as well as a number of parent volunteers. Our current Committee members are as follows:

Chairperson – Jo Etsell, Treasurer – Laura Atyeo, Secretary – Caroline Fitzalan Howard

Other Committee members – Kirsty Prior, Anna Stevenson, Amanda Grant-Parke, Anna Frost and Kirsty Leeder

The Committee meet on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events.

The Committee also hold open meetings, any member can come along, find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

## **Volunteers**

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the association. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at an event or wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets (just a few examples) would be invaluable. If you would like to join us please speak to a committee member, come along to our next meeting or email us through the school office at [office@foulshamprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@foulshamprimary.org.uk)

## **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Our Annual General Meeting is held in November and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members.

## **Support from Parentkind**

Friends is a member of Parentkind, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance to over 13,500 parent associations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Membership includes comprehensive insurance cover for all our association run events and gives access to support and advice on running the association plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips.

Parentkind also provide resources for Parents, if you would like to sign up to their Parent e-Bulletin please visit <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Signup>

## **How we raise money**

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

**Break the Rules Day, School Disco, a yearly sponsored event (this year it was a sponsored pancake flip), raffles, cake sales, MUFTI days**

Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes or offers of services and skills.

Friends have signed up to the Easyfundraising site which allows you to raise money for our school simply by shopping online. There are no hidden charges and the school will be grateful for your donations. To find out more please visit

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoffoulshamschool>

## **How we spend the money we raise**

The committee are responsible for deciding how our funds are spent. Usually the School Leadership Team provide a 'wish list' of items that the school would like us to consider funding.

We also invite input from parents too, so if you have an idea of something that would benefit all the students in the school, please do share it with the Committee. We can discuss it at a meeting and feedback.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Some of the items we have donated to the school this year are listed below

Ice lollies at the interval of the Christmas Panto Trip

Presents from Santa for every child

A decorated Christmas tree for the school hall

Christmas crackers to accompany the Christmas lunch

An Easter trail with an Easter Egg for each child

4 new gazebos in the house colours

Year 6 leavers hoodies & BBQ

PE t-shirts & bags for the new Reception children

## **How we keep you up to date**

Information on upcoming dates are included in the school newsletter and we send individual letters out with the children closer to the event.

We have a Friends noticeboard situated in the Reception area where you'll find all our posters and news.

