

# Friends of School Newsletter

Registered Charity: Friends of Milborne St Andrew First School  
Registered Charity Number: 1084154

## Hello! From your Friends of... Committee

And just like that, the Autumn term is drawing to a close!

The 2019/20 school year was a strange one, but we do not want to dwell on the negatives; instead we want to take a positive look at the last year and what we can do this school year to make it memorable for all the right reasons.

As mentioned in the Summer newsletter, we were very pleased to announce the installation of the new playground equipment; which the children have been taking turns using in their 'bubble' groups and having lots of fun. As you can probably appreciate, this project was reasonably expensive to implement and the Committee have been working hard over the past few months coming up with new ways to fundraise that will adhere to current restrictions.

## What is the purpose of a Friends of...

A Constitution is a legally binding document which governs the why, who, what, where and how we are run. Here is a short summary if you are interested in understanding a bit more:

A PTFA is set up to 'advance the education of the School's pupils by:

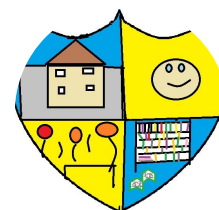
- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the School; and
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment as required.'

## Who is a Member?

All teachers, parents and carers automatically qualify as a 'member' so they can attend all general meetings. This is also why meeting minutes are always sent out to all of you by the School.

## What is the Committee's role?

Committee Members are elected at each AGM and commit to attend at least one in three meetings. The Committee must hold at least three meetings a year. For the most part, we discuss fundraising ideas (and the ways to achieve them) and also set up voluntary working groups to carry out tasks such as repairs to school property.



### Your Committee

Co-Chairs - Marie Chappell & Natalie Dennis

Vice-Chair - Kate O'Kelly

Treasurer - Bill Britton

Secretary - vacant

Officers: Dionne Andrews, Jo Ball, Leanne Brown, Jenny Diffey, Sarah Moody, Clare Pavey, Fran Porter, Kate Quinney & Caroline Richards

**The Committee are elected at the AGM and all are welcome to attend**

The next AGM is scheduled to be held in January 2021.

### Contact:

[msa\\_fos\\_chair@outlook.com](mailto:msa_fos_chair@outlook.com)

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: Friends of Milborne St Andrew First School / MilborneStAndrewFOS

## OUR NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 3rd November

8pm - an online only event

Attendance details published nearer the time

## Thank goodness for the Internet!

The Committee have been able to conduct recent meetings using video conferencing and are hopeful that this will encourage a few more of you to participate now that it can be done from the comfort of your own home. Please do not feel that your attendance at meetings automatically signs you up to becoming a Committee Member. Just come and join in the conversation, obligation free.

## Secretary Vacancy

We would like to fill the vacant Secretary role at the next AGM. The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes of the meeting and providing support to the Committee and School on various matters as necessary. No previous secretarial experience is required but a good grasp of word processing and social media would be beneficial. If you would like to know more about this role, please contact a member of the Committee.

## WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE WINTER TERM?

We started the school year with the **Change Jar Challenge** which was extremely successful and raised £250! Thank you to all who participated.

Next up is the **Halloween trail** taking place over half-term. Players will be taken on a tour around the village searching for clues to help them answer the riddle. There will be a box located in the Post Office to return the completed activity sheets which will then be entered into a prize draw to win one of 3 family gift hampers.

A communication was sent out last week relating to the 'design your own' **Christmas cards/gifts** which has proven popular in the past. We hope you enjoy helping your little ones get creative but can we ask that you all take the time to read the instructions carefully to avoid any disappointment with the completed items. Your child's artwork must be sent back to the school by 15th October.

## OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

**AmazonSmile** - Select Friends of Milborne St Andrew on the AmazonSmile tab of your Amazon shopping app to earn a donation each time you shop.

**Easy Fundraising** - Download the app, select Friends of Milborne St Andrew First School as the beneficiary and start earning donations each time you do your online shopping. Retailers include John Lewis, M&S and Expedia (to name only a few).

**YourSchoolLottery** - Sign up online at [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk) for your chance to win the national jackpot of £25,000, vouchers from national retailers or the small group jackpot. 40% of all ticket sales are paid back to Friends of School.

**Clothing Donation Bank** - Any clean, bagged items gratefully received. Friends of School receive a £ per kg price in return.

**Donate Uniform, Wellies, Shoes & Coats** - A black wheelie bin labelled 'FoS' is now installed next to the big green clothes bank where you can deposit any clean, bagged and wearable items. Friends of School will publish an online list of items for sale - details to follow.

**Volunteer** - Perhaps you have a skill, hobby or talent that may be useful to the Committee or School. Can you bake, make, mend, instruct or advise, or perhaps you just have a desire to help by donating your time to a worthy cause? Please don't be shy, let one of the Committee know.