

Friends of Pendragon School



Information Booklet

Contact Friends via Email: friends@pendragon.cambs.sch.uk

Friends have a page on the School Website: www.pendragon.cambs.sch.uk

Friends are on FaceBook: 'Friends of Pendragon School'

Welcome

A very warm welcome to our school. As a new family within our school community we realise it can be strange and a little nerve-wracking joining a school. This booklet has been written to tell you all about the **FRIENDS OF PENDRAGON**.

Introduction

The Friends of Pendragon (**Friends**) are the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) within Pendragon Community Primary School and have been an integral part of the school community for many years.

Why Do We Have Friends?

The aim of 'Friends' is to provide closer links between home and school, by bringing staff, parents/carers and children together socially in support of the school working towards a common goal.

Friends' exists to

- ☺ **Fundraise!** Friends has raised many thousands of pounds over the years. This money has been spent on improving equipment and resources to enhance our children's education and the facilities in school in general.
- ☺ Provide **fun events** for both the children and their parents/carers.

Who are the people behind 'Friends'?

The Committee

Our Friends Committee consists of volunteers who are parents and other family members of children who attend Pendragon Primary. We are also well supported by the teaching staff and Headteacher who attends all our meetings.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held during the autumn term. At this meeting we elect our new Committee. A list of Committee members will be sent out after the Friends AGM.

How We Get Information to You

Information is usually sent home via Parentmail We also send copies of invites to events home with children at the end of the week. We also have 2 noticeboards in the school grounds which advertise all forthcoming events which will keep you up to date.

How We Raise Money

As in most schools, the majority of our funds are raised through the events and activities that we run. Below are some examples with a brief description. Many are repeated each year and you will be given more information on each through our

newsletters. We welcome new ideas and try to introduce new events each year.

Events/Fundraising Activities	Month Held	Description
Nearly New Sale	Spring and Autumn	Sale of baby equipment and children's' (0-12) toys and clothes. Lots of helpers needed for this.
Bags 2 School	Spring and Autumn	Families are provided with a blue plastic sack to fill with unwanted clothes. Bags are collected and paid for by the ton.
Easter Tea / Bonfire Tea	Spring and/or Autumn	After school event with raffle, tombola, crafts, children's competition and refreshments.
Reception & KS1 Christmas Entertainer	December	Disco for children which Entertainer a visit and gift from Father Christmas during school afternoon
KS2 Christmas Discos	December	Christmas Disco after the school day
Social Events	Varies	Bollywood Evening, Family Disco, monthly coffee mornings
Quiz Night	Spring	Fun quiz night for adults.
Summer Fair	June/July	Barbeque and other refreshments, bouncy castle, stalls, displays by children, competition.
'Non-Uniform Days'	Every Term	On non uniform days children are asked to bring in an item for a raffle or tombola prize or pay a fee to buy these prizes.
Sponsored Events	Bi-Annual	In the past few years we have has a sponsored bounce, sponsored read and sponsored sports activities.
Plant Sales	Yearly	Plants are sold and Friends receive a % of sales.

How We Spend the Money We Raise

Decisions are made on how to spend the money raised at the Friends Committee Meetings. We ask for suggestions from Carol Shaw, (our Head Teacher) who has a 'shopping list' of items that the school would like to purchase. We also meet with the School Council and ask the children of Pendragon what they would like. Some examples recently include funding the coaches for yr 4 swim lessons, buying 15 new computers for the IT suite.

In the main the Friends funds are for the 'extras' not provided by the school budget, the extras that make our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Friend's funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building, as this is the responsibility of the School Governing Body. Our Constitution commits us to spending money on things that will directly benefit the children. For example Friends paid for the interactive whiteboards in the classrooms and for the outside wooden tables and chairs.

We always spend our funds in ways that will benefit **all** our children across all areas of the school and curriculum. Many of the resources purchased have a direct link to the School Development Plan. The money we raise is usually spent fairly quickly. This ensures that by you helping us support our school, your child will benefit

So you can see there is always something going on! We always try and respond to the children's requests for events and it is truly the icing on the cake to see them enjoying the events and having fun using a new piece of equipment that the Friends has donated.

How Can You Get Involved

There are lots of ways and plenty of times when you can help. It doesn't always involve being at school during the school day as some jobs can be done at home and in the evenings or at the weekend. It also doesn't have to be a regular commitment. Any offers of help however small are gratefully received.

- ☺ Helping with one of the events or fundraising activities – This can include helping with the preparation before an event, help during an event or after.
- ☺ Become a Committee Member and help with planning and organising of events.
- ☺ Providing us with new ideas or suggested improvements.
- ☺ Providing donations of money or items for raffle prizes.
- ☺ Offers of any contacts or skills we could use – anything is valuable to us.

Links with the Local Community

We have, over time, developed strong links with the local community and are always well supported by both residents and businesses, for which we are very grateful. Many of our local shops are very generous in their donations of prizes etc, and some have taken part in our Christmas and Summer Raffles. If you have any contacts you think may be willing to donate prizes, skills etc please do pass this information on.

National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations (NCPTA)

Friends belongs to the NCPTA, which is the national charity that advances education and supports PTAs. The NCPTA has a range of parental information sheets on subjects such as: Literacy and Numeracy, special educational needs, how to help your child get the most out of their school days, bullying, homework, using the internet and career paths to name but a few. You can access this information via the NCPTA website, www.ncpta.org.uk. To gain entry to the site you will need our membership number, which is: 17182. Do have a look.

Thank You for Your Support

Thank you for reading our booklet. We look forward to meeting you and receiving your valuable support to help enrich the learning experiences of your child and making their time at school enjoyable. Inside this booklet is a contact information form. Please complete this form and return it to the school office if you would like to get involved or help out in anyway.

All the Friends Committee