

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR, Zoë Whicheloe

Welcome

A very warm welcome to all the new and returning families to Coulsdon CofE this term! A huge thank you to all our outgoing committee members, particularly Co-Chairs, Rachael Jolley and Natasha Bloxham, Secretary Nicola Reynolds and Year 6 reps, Lisa Barnes, Gemma Barton and Katie Winyard who have all given so much time to the Friends over the years.

Who we are and what we do

The Friends is our active group of parent volunteers (PTA) who organise fundraising events to bring our school community together. The last 18 months have been challenging for everyone and we've really missed not being together but we're hopeful that this year will see the return of some of our popular events including the Family Fireworks, children's Christmas disco, a parents quiz night, the May Ball and our family summer fair and BBQ.

We'd love to see as many families take part and enjoy the events and activities organised by the Friends, as possible, to make the most of our community, in person, while raising funds for the school. We know this past year has been hard, so if your child is unable to take part in an activity for financial reasons, please let us or the school know and we will see if we can help.

The Friends are also looking for ways to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce single-use plastic at our events. If you have any ideas or initiatives for how we can be greener, do let us know.



Planned events for this term and dates for your diary

- **Family Fireworks Night** - Saturday 13 November
- **Christmas Cards** - the children design Christmas pictures which are sent to print and available to purchase as cards, tags and wrapping paper.
- **Pre-loved uniform sale** - before October half term (date TBC)
- **Children's Movie Night** - date TBC (after school)
- **Children's Disco** - Monday 13 December (after school)
- **More exciting events to be announced soon...**



Our funds and spending

- Last year, despite a lack fundraising opportunities, we contributed £1,600 for teacher resources, paid for the virtual visit from author and illustrator, Nick Sharratt, provided over £650 for Early Years resources and gave each child in the school a book at Christmas. Fr Christmas and the Easter Bunny also made appearances to bring some cheer around the school!
- In the past, we've purchased new reading books, iPads, a wifi upgrade and a drumming workshop.
- We're currently working with Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Lee looking into funding improvements for the outdoor areas and supporting new technology in the classrooms.

Get in touch

Do get in touch if you have any ideas, questions or want to get involved either via your class rep or by emailing us at: friendscoulsdoncofe@gmail.com

How you can help

- **Online shopping** - it's easy and FREE! Simply register with easyfundraising.org.uk and **Amazon Smile** then pick us as your chosen charity! We receive a donation each time you shop. Last year we raised over **£450** from these as well as over **£350** from the Christmas card designs.
- **Get involved** - Our events are a great way to meet other parents and support our lovely school.

Class reps needed

We are looking for class reps in Year 4 and Year 5 to join us! Please do get in touch if you're interested.

Friends Committee Members: Zoë Whicheloe, Coordinator; Sarah Bowen-Harries, Secretary and Year 5 Rep; Nicola Bulbeck, Treasurer; **Class Reps:** Helen Omoh-Mensah, Year R Rep; Ama Ayebinim-Preko, Year R Rep; Danielle Atkinson, Year 1 Rep; Alex Bennett, Year 1 Rep; Hannah Shanks, Year 2 Rep; Natalie Gibson, Year 2 Rep; Suzanne Taylor, Year 3 Rep; Elise Hedderly, Year 3 Rep; Dee Collins, Year 4 Rep; Emma Cotter, Year 5 Rep; Rachael Jolley, Year 6 Rep; Maxine Slate, Year 6 Rep. **Visit our page on the school's website to find out more about us:** <https://www.coulsdoncofe.co.uk/friends/who-we-are/>