

# The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School



Friends of St John's  
Primary School  
*Working for our School and Community*

## Welcome Booklet September 2020

Welcome to the St John's C of E Primary School Primary School community. We realise it can be daunting starting at a new school and you may have many questions that you would like to ask.

This booklet aims to provide you with information about The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School which forms a major part of the school community.

If you have any questions that remain unanswered once you've read this booklet then please contact the committee members via email: [fofstjs@gmail.com](mailto:fofstjs@gmail.com), leave a message with the school office or face to face at drop off and pick up.

## **Who are The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School?**

The Friends are a registered charity which raises valuable funds on behalf of the school. The money raised is spent on equipment and resources to enhance the school's facilities and our children's educational experiences.

The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School embodies the Christian ethos and diversity of our school therefore we seek to serve and support others as well as our school community. The Christian ethos is at the centre of all that we do and this is reflected when organising and planning events. Not all of our events are run as fundraisers; we also arrange fun events for the children such as a communal Easter Egg Hunt.

All families are automatically members of The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School when their child joins our school and all parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved in a number of different ways.

## **Role of The Friends of St John's Committee**

The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School committee meets once a month to discuss fundraising ideas, plan events and implement ideas. We also meet at smaller working groups meeting, as necessary, when we are planning larger events. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

## **Class Representatives**

Our class representatives are the important link between the committee and the wider school community. We are looking for class representatives to undertake this important role for the new September intake.

## **How you can get involved**

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School including offering to help before events or at other times during the year. It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you cannot come into the school, all support is appreciated. There are always jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. wrapping gifts, preparing raffle tickets etc. We really couldn't achieve what we do without the heroes working behind the scenes.

If you would like to be involved by becoming a class representative or volunteer to help at future fundraising events, please speak to a member of the committee or a class representative who will be happy to answer any questions and listen to your feedback.

## **How The Friends of St John's raise money**

The majority of our funds are raised through the events that we organise and run. We have already held a number of successful events including Cake Sales, Table Top Sales, Frozen Friday, Easter Egg Hunt, end of year school picnic, Bag2School collection and co hosted a Summer Community Fun Day with St John's Church. We raise money in many ways and support from the St John's families is extremely important. We really value all support including volunteering time, donating items for sale, raffle prizes or offers of services and skills. Please speak to a committee member if you are interested in volunteering.

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

The Friends of St John's C of E Primary funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building as this is the responsibility of the Governing Body. The Committee together with our Head Teacher, Mrs. Langeveld discusses the best way to spend the money raised. The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School funds are spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences even more fulfilling and exciting. We always endeavor to spend our funds in ways that will benefit all our children across all age ranges, year groups, areas of the school and curriculum.

## **Support from Parentkind (formerly known as PTA-UK)**

The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School is a member of Parentkind (formerly known as PTA-UK). Our association is one of over 13,600 members in current membership of the Parentkind. We pay an annual membership fee which gives us member benefits including comprehensive insurance cover for all Friends of St John's run events, support and advice on procedures and systems, plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips.

## How we get information to you

We are passionate about what we do and we are keen to keep the St John's C of E Primary School families updated. The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School uses the following methods of communication:

- A closed Facebook group which has been set up for the St John's C of E School families only, please search Facebook for **St John's Primary School Families**
- Classlist app **Watford St John's Church of England Primary School Families**
- The St John's C of E Primary School weekly newsletter

## A message from our Head Teacher, Mrs. Langeveld

"Building our school community is a privilege and by working together for the good of the children in our care, as well as finding ways for us to support others, we are bringing alive our Christian ethos. St John's Primary School is an inclusive school and we welcome everyone's contributions no matter how small or large.

I look forward to The Friends of St John's C of E Primary School continuing to grow and provide enriching experiences for the whole community."