

Friends of Drayton Community Infant School Newsletter

May 2016



[Check us out](#); registered charity no 1062976



It's the end of the road Friends...

We are really sorry to announce that at our recent Friends (PTA) meeting it was decided that we have no alternative but to put an end to the Friends which is a charity that for the last 20 years or so has regularly raised funds for the benefit of the children within the school.

Why the end?

The reason is primarily due to the fact that after what we feel has been repeated attempts both within the committee and to the school via letters home and notes posted on the school website we have nobody willing to take on the key organisational roles of the committee; in particular the role of the Chairperson. Although we have and will continue for a short period of time without a Chair, constitutionally and practically this is not possible.



No More? Fireworks? Egg Hunts? Summer Parties?

Historically the Friends have organised many large events with the help of parents and staff from the school. Often it has been a struggle to put these events together because we appreciate that whilst many people have been willing and able to help with the preparation; during the event they enjoyed spending their time with their children and other family members. It is also probable that some parents didn't know what help was needed, despite what we feel have been regular pleas for assistance. Despite this every year we have sought to put on fun, quality events for the children of Drayton Infant School because whilst we loved to raise funds for the niceties in school-life we also really loved to see the families of the school having a great time together.

No More? Discos? or Quiz Nights?

In truth, we don't fully know the way forward yet. The Friends charitable trust has paid annually for membership to and insurance through PTA UK and the school are currently looking into exactly what their existing insurance and governmental obligations would cover in terms of events, liability and requirements. If it is possible for these events to be undertaken directly through the school it might be achievable for some of these activities to continue, although this would still be dependant on volunteers to run them.

No More?

Cake Sales? Mother's / Father's Day Shops? Spree Books? Readathons? Travelling Book Company help? Smartie Tube Challenges? Story Telling Evenings? Easy Fundraising?

It is possible that these smaller fundraising opportunities might be able to be taken up by individuals and maybe even classes within the school without the umbrella of a Friends charity. It is not yet fully clear how this would work as it often still comes back to the need for a person or group to take responsibility for the overall organisation and coordination throughout the school.

No More? Year 2 Leavers Book? Yellow Moon Catalogues? Christmas Card Fundraisers? Family Photograph studios?

It is most probable that these smaller fundraisers and/or benefits will not continue.



Each year the Friends have raised about £9000 for the good of the children of our school (pupils present and future) who have benefited from projects that we agreed to raise funds for through discussion with the staff, pupils and parents of the school. Here's a list of some of these projects:

Big

Trim Track

Musical Instruments (both on the field and within school)

Playground Markings

Outdoor Classroom

Greenhouse

Library Refurbishment

Play Tower

and eventually a **Bike Shelter**



and

“Small” ...

Waterproof clothing sets

£100 to every class; annually

Funds for Coaches; annually

£1000 for Multi-cultural week(s)

£1000 for Activities week(s)

DT resources and the list could go on...

We have been asked and have asked ourselves; [Wouldn't it be easier if we all just make a donation to the school rather than having to bake cakes, flip burgers or help at school discos?](#)

Possibly, but we believe that the Friends have contributed more than just money to the school and like the fact that this enables the parents to get involved in deciding where funds get spent.

However, **it is not all about the money for us**. We believe that the Friends (a group whose membership is open to all those connected with the school) have been a vital part of the [community](#) that makes up Drayton [Community](#) Infant School. Whilst we see that our events have brought the school together it has also been a friendly way for parents to engage with their child's education. Also historically the Friends have provided the head teacher, staff and governors with a way of communicating and consulting with parents on various issues surrounding school life.

Of course, within this the Friends have been involved in deciding what the money should be spent on but **by having that power people have automatically become more involved** not just in the particular funding decision, but in the school itself. We believe that has been the real value of the Friends.

The Friends final event we will be hosting our **Summer Party** (hopefully with the sun shining on us all)! Within this occasion on **Friday 8th July** the Year 2 leaver's books will be given out as well as bouncy castles, food, music and fun for everyone!

Say **“So long, farewell, auf wiedersehn, goodbye...”**
at the Friends of DCIS AGM (2015-2016)



You are invited to join us on **Tuesday 27th September 2016** at 7pm in the school hall.



[We have taken our accountability to the parents and children of the school very seriously and would love the chance to let you know where the money has gone.](#)

So come and see what we did with your money!

We thank you for all your support, past & present.



Have a comment? Get in touch...

We currently still have a pigeonhole in the school office where you can leave us a message.

For more details of events & minutes of our meetings please visit the school website:

www.draytoninfantschool.co.uk

