

# Welcome to



## Welcome to Hollywater School

This information has been put together by **Friends of Hollywater School** especially for our school community. As a parent, grandparent, carer, or teaching staff member, you are automatically a member of our Friends society and we welcome you!

This booklet provides you with information about **Friends of Hollywater School** and lets you know how you can join in.

## Why do we have a Friends Association?

We are a new association and just getting started but we have big plans!

Friends of Hollywater School exists to provide closer links between home and school and bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal.

**For families:** Friends of Hollywater School will be organising opportunities for you to meet other parents in the school community at social events, fundraising events and information sharing events. We will be facilitating practical support by inviting guest speakers offering specialist advice relating to children and young people with SEND and signposting to information and guidance.

**For students:** We will be fundraising and seeking bursary funding for equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience, wellbeing and the school's environment and facilities.

**For staff:** Our fundraising efforts will centre on securing resources for staff projects, supporting wellbeing, and enhancing their environment and facilities.

## Role of the Committee

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM), which takes place each year in early Autumn term, we elect that year's committee; chair, secretary, treasurer, fundraising officer, and ordinary committee members.

- If you would like to stand for election for any of these roles, we would be very happy to hear from you. You do not need to be a current parent - teaching staff, grandparents and carers are also welcome.

The Committee meets on a regular basis, either during the day or in the evening (sometimes at the pub!). Smaller working groups also meet as necessary when we are planning larger events. There will always be very small jobs for people to do if they can't commit more time.

The Committee will also be holding open meetings where any member can come along, find out what the association is planning, share ideas and get involved.

## Volunteers

The Hollywater School community includes parents, teachers, local businesses, carers and friends. We welcome practical help and support, experience, skills and time.

Every little helps. So, just one hour of assisting at an event or wrapping lucky dip prizes, etc. would be invaluable. If you have professional skills, time or connections that can help us, please get in touch. You can speak to a committee member, come along to our next meeting or email us – [friends@hollywater.hants.sch.uk](mailto:friends@hollywater.hants.sch.uk).

## Support from Parentkind

**Friends of Hollywater School** is a member of Parentkind, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance to over 13,500 parent associations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Membership includes comprehensive insurance cover by Zurich Insurance plc for all our association run events and gives access to support and advice on running the association plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips.

Parentkind also provide resources for Parents. If you would like to sign up to their Parent e-Bulletin please visit <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Signup>

## How we will be raising money

Like most PTAs, we plan to raise some funds through the events that we run and through projects such as Christmas cards.

Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes & auction lots, or offers of services and skills.

Through 'easyfundraising' you can support us through your online shopping at no extra cost.

You can join our Your School Lottery and be in with a chance to win the big cash prize of £25,000 every month, plus many other bonus prizes throughout the year.

You can recycle with us and raise money for the school. Currently we are recycling textiles via the bin in the car park and printer and toner cartridges which you can send into the school office.

## How we spend the money we raise

The Friends committee is responsible for deciding how our funds are spent. The School Leadership Team provides a 'wish list' of items that the school would like us to consider funding. Teachers will regularly be asked for their wish lists.

We also invite input from parents too. So, if you have an idea of something that would benefit all the students in the school, please do share it with the Committee. We can discuss it at a meeting and feed back.

Funds will typically be spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Funds will not generally be spent on improving the fabric of the school building, as this is the responsibility of the school. Our Constitution commits the association to spending money on things that will benefit the children and staff directly.

## How we keep you up to date

A section of the school newsletter is dedicated to Friends of Hollywater School, where we include information on upcoming events and dates as well as details of the help we are looking for at larger events. Following an event, we will let you know how much was raised, and when we reach our target, we tell you what the money will be spent on.

We have our own page on the school website where we share information, plans and achievements; as well as hold all our official policy and procedure documents.

If you have access to Facebook, please join our **Friends of Hollywater School Community** page where we all share our stories, ideas and information that we think will benefit other parents and carers of our very wonderful children.



