



Friends of Kilmore

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Dear Parents and Carers of September 2021 Kilmore Starters

The Friends of Kilmore is our school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and as Chair, I would like to welcome you and your family to our lovely school. With children in Year 4 and Year 6, I remember well the mixture of emotions you may be feeling as your child embarks on their Kilmore journey! One of Kilmore's strengths is its fantastic community, so please read on for some important information regarding the Friends of Kilmore and the role that we play.

What is the Friends of Kilmore?

The Friends of Kilmore is a registered charity (charity number 1033770). Our mission is to nurture positive relationships throughout the school community by organising social events and fundraising for additional resources which support the school and advance the education of its pupils.

All parents, guardians, carers and school staff are members of the Friends of Kilmore – which means that you automatically become a member of the Friends of Kilmore when your child joins the school.

Who runs the Friends of Kilmore?

As a charity, we are required to have an elected committee of at least two people – but the more committee members we have, the better! All committee members are trustees of the charity. We will soon elect the committee for 2021/22 at our Annual General Meeting, but for 2020/21, the committee was made up of ten Kilmore parents with children of varying ages. Most of our committee members are working parents who volunteer as committee members/trustees in their spare time.

We are always looking for new committee members – and are particularly keen to find a Chair/Co-Chairs and a Treasurer/Co-Treasurers - so please get in touch via email if this is something that interests you.

How do the Friends of Kilmore raise money for the school?

Our fundraising is focused on organising social events that bring the school community together and raise money for the school at the same time. In the past, we have organised events including:

- Christmas and summer fairs
- Quiz and curry nights
- School discos and parents' discos
- Comedy nights
- Cake, ice-cream and book sales

The Covid-19 pandemic has made our usual fundraising efforts more challenging, but we have managed to find new ways of raising money, including by organising socially distanced trails. When planning events for the 2021/22 academic year, we will be guided by the Kilmore Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as to what is appropriate, based on the circumstances at the time.

How is the money raised by Friends of Kilmorie used?

Each school year, the committee discusses with the Kilmorie headteacher and SLT how the money donated by the Friends can best be used. For several years, the priority has been for the funds to benefit all Kilmorie children wherever possible, for example:

- Funding new playground markings
- Converting the art room into a multi-use space that can also be used for science
- Purchasing interactive whiteboards for the classrooms
- Subsidising the cost of school trips for every class
- Contributing towards the cost of coaches for the Early Phase beach trip
- Purchasing new books for the Kilmorie library.

From September 2017 to July 2020, we donated £43600 in additional funds to school. If you would like to find out what we raised in 2020/21, a report on our fundraising and donations to school will be presented at our **2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 23rd September at 8pm**. If you would like to attend, please register [here](#) and you will be sent Zoom joining details the day before the AGM. The report will also be available on the Friends of Kilmorie [page](#) on the school website shortly after the AGM.

How do the Friends of Kilmorie communicate with parents and carers?

There are lots of different ways that we communicate with the Kilmorie community such as:

- Volunteers in each class known as 'Friends Reps' who share Friends of Kilmorie news with their class via the informal WhatsApp groups set up by parents for individual classes
- Social media channels – please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Friends of Kilmorie newsletters and key PTA messages in the school newsletter
- Emails - both those sent on our behalf by the school office and from us directly to those parents/carers on our mailing list (please email if you would like to be added to this list)
- Notices and posters in and around school
- Text messages from school for time-sensitive matters
- Open committee meetings and coffee mornings (at least one each term) to which everyone is invited, as an opportunity to socialise, suggest ideas, ask questions and provide feedback.

How can you get involved with the Friends of Kilmorie?

The success of our events and fundraising depends on the support and participation of the entire school community and we would love every parent to feel involved! We understand that life is busy, so there are lots of different ways you can participate, depending on how much time you have – from volunteering specific skills/expertise, signing-up to help on a stall for an hour, or simply by attending our events. We also have a Virgin Money Giving [page](#) where people can donate directly.

A great way to find out more about what we do and to meet fellow parents/carers is to come along to our **coffee morning for parents of new starters on Friday 17th September from 9am until 10.30am at The Perry Hill pub**. If you'd like to join us, please sign up [here](#) so we have an idea of numbers. We hope to see lots of you there!



Caroline Maybin
Chair of Friends of Kilmorie