



September 2020

Friends of Roundwood Primary

NEWSLETTER

A very warm welcome to all those who are new joiners to our School! And welcome back to everyone else – what an unusual time it has been.

Ordinarily, we would have updated you all sooner than this on our plans for the next school year and our fundraising targets. However, you will appreciate that this is far from an “ordinary” year. Although we have so far been unable to hold a proper team meeting, we’ve been very busy behind the scenes, discussing the events and fundraisers that we think we can reasonably look to put on over the course of the next few months. We wanted to update you on those, and to give you a picture of what we hope to achieve this year.

YOUR FRIENDS CHECKLIST

1. *If you can, please join the majority of families who contribute on a monthly basis to the Roundwood Primary School Parent Fund.*
2. *Sign up to – and use! – Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile. It's free money for School!*
3. *Check whether your employer offers a Fund Matching plan. It makes a massive difference to our fundraising.*
4. *Let us know if you have practical skills you can offer.*
5. *Join Friends! We'd love to have you!*

Email us at:

*friends@roundwoodprimary.herts.sch.uk
for full details on any/all of the above.
Parent Fund forms are also available by
email from the Office.*

What will we be fundraising for this school year?

1. Day-to-day funding requirements

As is the case in any year, Friends' fundraising must first bridge the gap between the funding the Government provides and the sums School actually needs in order to continue running day to day.

As many of you know, the last two years of fundraising have been exceptional. This has meant that together with your continuing Parent Fund donations, Friends have a “buffer” large enough to cover this year's foreseeable day-to-day funding requirements. It is important to be clear, however, that this would not be the case without your contributions to the Parent Fund.

This means that we can focus our fundraising on other, special projects.

2. Special Projects

As Mrs Hooff explained in last week's newsletter, exciting plans are afoot to completely transform the School's outside spaces. Those plans are going to need our support.

This term, we hope to begin the long-awaited upgrade of the KS2 playground area. We are delighted to report that monies that have been ring-fenced from the last two years' fundraising efforts will be spent on the necessary groundworks and artificial grass surrounding the new KS2 play equipment. We are in the final stages of a significant grant application, which we are hopeful will pay for a super new “Forest Circuit” timber climbing frame complete with ropes, log pathways and swinging obstacles, usable in all weathers.

The next phase of the external works will see the installation of a new gazebo area, the development of a sensory garden, allotment area, raised beds and an orchard. All the children at School will be able to use these areas.

This second phase is what we will primarily be fundraising for this school year. Our target is £15,000.

How are we going to fundraise, given the limitations presented by Covid?

It goes without saying that large-scale group events are out of the question for the time being. We are sad to let you know that neither the Christmas Fair nor the Ball will be taking place this year. Both events take a huge amount of time and effort to put on, and it would be awful to press head with organisation only to have our plans cancelled down the line.

The Fairs and the Ball are by far our biggest fundraisers and we will have our work cut out this year to raise anywhere near the amount of money that we would expect to raise in a normal Ball year. But we have ideas and determination! And with your support, we really believe that we can continue to make a big difference to our school despite very challenging circumstances.

This term will see the following events and campaigns:

- Class Popcorn & PJs nights (more details to follow!);
- Sales of our lovely Roundwood apple juice, Christmas cards, puddings and (hopefully) Christmas trees;
- A new Auction of Promises, which we're hoping every family will help us with; and
- A Roundwood Cook Book - perfect for Christmas gifts!

There will be a sponsored event early next year and whilst there won't be a Ball, we will do our very best to put on a parents' (or family) party of some sort if we possibly can.

Help us in other ways!

Supporting Friends' events is not the only way parents can raise money for School!

This year more than ever, we are asking you to think hard about whether you:

- have signed up to (and use!) Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile;
- work for an employer who can fund match our events;
- can help on a more practical level – for instance, helping with digging, planting and building works; and
- critically, whether you contribute to the Parent Fund.

We are also working hard on pursuing alternative routes to fundraising. We know that times are really challenging for many at the moment, and we've formed a sub-team to investigate and apply for grants and support from businesses wherever appropriate.

If you have experience in applying for grants, we would love to hear from you.

Friends team members:

Kate Novak	Steph Jenkins
Anna Hamilton-Watson	Claire McShee
Olha Fenova	Lucy Hayes
Lanna Shaw	Floor Timmons
Lydia Baralt	Camilla Evans
Amy Farnhill	Sonya Fraser
Richard Dalton	Laura Faiz
Ed Jarvis	Jess Jackson
Dinusha Fonseka	Balraj Oates
	Heidi Hansen



The new KS2
Forest Circuit Play
Equipment:
Coming soon!