

FRIENDS of:

Littledean C of E Primary School & Pre-School



People with time for Children

13th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is that time of year again where The Friends Committee invites you to their AGM. In this meeting we will talk through the last year's events, future and vote in our officers.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 9.00 am on the 7th October in the staff room. It would be lovely to see some new faces there to help push the committee forward.

For new parents that have just joined our school, The Friends are a very important part of the school community, working alongside the staff team to raise much needed funds for the school and all our children. The committee meet at regular intervals throughout the year to discuss fundraising ideas and plan events. In the past few years we have held very successful, Summer Fayres, Christmas Fayres and dog shows. These events take a lot of organising and require a lot of help from our families to make them successful. This year alone our funds have paid for numerous coaches for the pantomime, year 6 trips, year 6 leavers books, visualiser's for Chestnut and Holly Berries classes, contributed to the outside area in the back playground (this will be completed early November), discos at both Christmas and end of year, Easter eggs, seeds and compost for pre-school, iced buns for world book day and craft bits for the infants for their fun day. These purchases were just for the last academic year alone. The Friends have paid for and purchased many more things over several years that have been vital to the school and the children. It's all been possible due to the hard work of our committee and donations from families and time given up supporting these events.

However, on a less positive note, it was noted last year that willing volunteers to help with events was starting to dwindle. This year at the Summer Fayre, we were at least two stalls down that The Friends would run due to lack of 'hands on deck'. Some stalls were clubbed together and others such as refreshments was run by one person. It was noted by many observers how flat the Summer Fayre felt and looked. As a committee that's hard to take because there is so much hard work that goes into organising these events and so many people rely on the money we raise and donate. As you can see from what was mentioned above, we support the school with many things.

The committee cannot unfortunately continue to function with a handful of volunteers though. It needs more people, not necessarily to turn up to meetings and plan, but to run stalls and support at planned events. We and the school want to continue to grow and raise money, but it can't be done by a few of the same people.

This current AGM is vital to see the committee continue into this academic year. New and familiar faces are needed to drive us forward. If the committee was to cease to exist due to lack of support, and this is a very real possibility, there are many things our children will lose. Disco's would not happen; coach and panto tickets would increase from £11 to approx £17 per child as there would not be the Friends donation covering the coach cost. Year 6 leaver gifts would need to be funded by parents, Easter egg hunts and fun craft days wouldn't happen. This may not seem huge, but it would affect the children who get so much from these activities.

None of what is achieved can be done by 5 or 6 parents. We know people are busy, people have jobs and family plans, but the committee cannot and will not function unless there is more support this year from our families. Sadly it has got to that point and it's not a decision that has been taken lightly.

Please try and attend the AGM on the above date. If you cannot make this, but would like to be involved, let Mrs Worgan in the office know you're willing to support, or speak to any of the current serving officers. There is Emma Tattersall, Chair, Marie Williams, Treasurer and Nikki Wakefield, Secretary.

All support however big or small is welcomed. Our children benefit from this committee and all its hard work, please don't let that change.

Many Thanks
The Friends Committee