

Friends of Holy Family

Welcome Pack



Welcome to our school!



Welcome to Holy Family

This information has been put together by Friends of Holy Family (FoHF) especially for you as a new family joining our school community. Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family and studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved from the start! This booklet provides you with information about Friends of Holy Family and how you can join in.

Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a Family & Parent Teachers Association that's an integral part of the school community. Over the years we have raised thousands of pounds which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. Friends of Holy Family exists to provide closer links between home and school, and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It's fun too - just ask any of the committee members or volunteers.

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if you only have a small amount of time available.

Please read our '*Welcome to Friends of Holy Family PTA*' leaflet for more information.

Role of the Committee

Friends of Holy Family is a registered charity (1208116). Our committee consists of 3 Trustees plus several volunteer committee members. Our Trustees are:

Natalie Mansell – Chair

Helen Molyneux – Vice Chair

Margaret Jackson – Treasurer

(Secretary – vacant position)

If you are interested in supporting in any way, please send your name, mobile number and email address to friendsofholyfamily@hotmail.com.

The Committee meet on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events.

The Committee also hold open PTA meetings where any member can come along, find out what we are planning, share ideas and get involved.



Volunteers

Friends of Holy Family welcome any help from parents, carers, teachers and friends of the school and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping us during events. Every little helps - just one hour of assisting at event or wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets would be invaluable to us. If you would like to join us, please speak to a committee member, come along to one of our meetings or email us at friendsofholyfamily@hotmail.com. We have included a reply slip at the bottom of this booklet you can complete and return to the committee via the school office.

Class Representatives

Our class reps play a very important role providing a communication link between individual classes, parents, and Friends of Holy Family. The role of class reps is vital when it comes to promoting our events and engaging parents/carers for your help and support. We really could not manage without them! Below you will find the names of the class representative(s) for your child/children's class. If you are interested in becoming a class representative, please let us know via our email address at friendsofholyfamily@hotmail.com.

Class	Name of class representative(s)
Reception	Hope Pestell
Year 1	Heather O'Connor
Year 2	Nichola Bullough
Year 3	Helen Molyneux, Charlotte Travis & Sinead Saville
Year 4	Natalie Mansell, Jade Field & Claire Gambles
Year 5	Stacey Shepherd
Year 6	Kelly Lloyd

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in April and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents/carers to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members.

Support from Parentkind

Friends of Holy Family are a member of Parentkind (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 PTA-run events and gives access to support and advice on running the PTA, plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips.

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



How we raise money

Like most PTAs, most of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

- Summer Fair & Christmas Fair
- Glow Disco
- Gift Shops
- Tuck Shops & Frozen Fridays

Donations from parents are extremely important too. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes and auction lots or offers of services and skills. If you have a particular skill or interest that could help us when organising our summer and Christmas fairs in particular, then we would love to hear from you! Please speak with a member of the committee or email us at friendsofholyfamily@hotmail.com.

How we spend the money we raise

The Friends of Holy Family committee are responsible for deciding how our PTA funds are spent in conjunction with the school's Leadership Team. Usually, the School Leadership Team provide a 'wish list' of items that the school would like us to consider funding.

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 to you.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, which make our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting, such as treats, treasure trails and competitions. Funds are not generally 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 directly. Some of the items we have donated to the school are listed below:

- Inflatable goal target (a great addition to our summer fair!)
- Games table for the school's 'Out of School Club'
- A 'Buddy Bench' for the playground

How we keep you informed

Our bi-monthly Friends of Holy Family newsletter is sent to all parents/carers via ParentMail and Class Dojo via the school office. The newsletter includes information on events that have taken place, upcoming events, and key dates plus details of any help and support we need from parents/carers for our larger events. Following an event, we always share with you how much was raised, and when we reach our target, we will share with you what the money will be spent on.



If you have access to Twitter, please follow our Friends of Holy Family page - **@friends_of_hf**.

Anyone who wishes to join our committee, either as a Trustee or a regular volunteer, will be invited to join our Friends of Holy Family WhatsApp group, which is our means of communication for planning our events and meetings.

If you would like to join Friends of Holy Family or hear more about what we do, please speak to a committee member, email us at friendsofholyfamily@hotmail.com or simply complete the slip below and return it to the school office and we will get in touch with you:

Full Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I am a (please circle): Parent / Guardian / Other (please state) _____

My child is/will be joining class: _____

**We look forward to hearing from
you!**