

The Friends of Wharfedale Montessori School

Newsletter – November 2012

Dear Parents / Carers and Staff,

Welcome to the first newsletter from the newly appointed Friends of Wharfedale Montessori committee!

As some of you will be aware the Friends of Wharfedale Montessori School was set up some years ago to provide a social and support network for parents and as an additional communication channel between parents and school. Over the years the Friends have organised many social events and helped to raise money to buy extras for the school such as outdoor play equipment.

This year we are planning to organise a variety of social and fundraising events, some of which are outlined later in this letter.

1. Committee Members

Last year a number of long standing members of the committee sadly had to leave us as their children moved on to secondary schools. As a result, a new committee was elected at the AGM in October. The new committee members are as follows:

Chair	Angela Canning (Stanley Brown's mum)
Secretary	Sally Dyson (Daniel Beasley's mum)
Treasurer	Jointly held by Joanne Whistler and Paul Mann (Oliver Mann's parents)
Parents Directory	Purvi Precious (Bella Precious' mum)
Used Uniform Sales	Jane Wood (Gretel's mum)

Parent / School liaison representatives:

Baby Nursery	Sally Stubbs (Alvin Burt's mum)
Children's House	Geeta Vadukul (Zaka and Maryam Khan's mum)
Cabin	Jan Ferguson (Flora Ferguson's mum)

2. Parents Directory

The Parents Directory, which lists names and contact details of parents, is currently being updated and this will be circulated shortly. All parents who are happy for their details to be included on this list should have completed a data consent form when registering their child/ children with the school. If you think that you have not done this then forms are available from the school office.

3. Fundraising

This year we are aiming to raise money to assist the school with the funding of a new outside play surface for the nursery. The school is currently looking at the cost of each phase of the required work and will shortly provide us with a target figure which will enable the first phase of work to go ahead.

We would like to thank Moira Myers who took the remaining bric a brac from the summer fete to a car boot sale in September and raised £44.00 for the 'Friends'.

4. Bolton Abbey Gift Shop Vouchers

All parents should have now been given a Bolton Abbey gift shop voucher. The voucher gives you 10% off at any of the Bolton Abbey gift shops and a further 10% of what you spend will be donated to the School. The shops stock many potential Christmas gifts and stocking fillers – so get shopping!

5. Social events

Monday 3rd December – 1pm, Christmas Lunch and walk (optional)

Please join us for Christmas lunch at the Cavendish Pavilion. The lunch will cost £10.00 per head for 2 courses or £15.00 per head for 3 courses. Vegetarian options are available. In addition, for those who wish to work up a healthy appetite before hand, there is a plan to walk to the Cavendish Pavilion from the Strid car park (weather permitting). The path is suitable for push chairs and will take approximately 40 mins (and don't forget that you will have to walk back again afterwards!). If you wish to walk, please meet at the Strid car park at 12 noon.

If you would like to attend or have any queries regarding this event, please call or email Sally Dyson on 01943 605800 al.salhome@gmail.com by Thursday 29th November.

Christmas raffle and mince pies

As usual, the 'Friends' will be holding a Christmas raffle and selling tasty drinks and mince pies after this year's School Christmas play on Wednesday 12th December at Bolton Abbey Village Hall.

If you are able to donate a raffle prize or help with catering / clearing up at this event then please contact Angela Canning or Sally Dyson.

Summer Fete - 2013

Following the success of this year's summer fete, we are planning to hold another one on Saturday 15th June 2013 - so please put this date in your diary!

A planning meeting for this event will take place early next year.

6. Friends Facebook group launch

We would like to invite all parents to join the Facebook group that we have recently set up. The group can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/wharfedalemontessorifriends/>. To access the group you need to have a Facebook account and then click on 'Join Group' at the top right hand side of the group. Your request will be approved by one of the group administrators within a day or two. The idea is to give parents an easy way of contacting each other, for example to arrange outings or play dates during holidays and weekends. Further information is available within the group itself under the 'About' tab.

7. PTA Membership

The 'Friends' are current members of the PTA (Parent Teachers Association). This provides us with many benefits. All parents / carers and staff can access the information provided by the PTA which includes updates on topics such as legislation changes that affect PTAs, free workshops, and fundraising ideas. These are emailed to all members who register on the website. If you are interested in accessing the PTA website and receiving the latest information then you will need to set up a login on www.pta.org.uk. Click on the register button in the Members' login box on the home page and follow the prompts, choosing your own password. The PTA-UK membership ID is **39314**.

Finally, we would like to stress that the 'Friends' are for everyone who would like to be involved with and support our school, including the parents or carers of children who have left. Committee meetings are of course open to everyone and minutes from these will be circulated to all via email for information. We need your ideas and input to make this a success. We very much hope that you will join us this year in working (and playing) to support each other and our school in continuing to provide such a great start for our children.

Yours sincerely,

The Friends of Wharfedale Montessori Committee