



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

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Interim Head of School: Mrs Alice Shaw

Interim Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

21st September 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

RE: The 'Friends of St. John's'



As many of you will be aware, Friends of St John's (our equivalent of a PTA) has been central to life at St John's for many years. They are responsible for the many social events that contribute towards the sense of community at the school. Together with other FOSJ activities, these raise much-needed funds for the school - covering things such as equipment, trips and experiences that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

FOSJ are now in urgent need of a new Chair to take the organisation forward. Unfortunately the previous Chair and Co-Chair (Mel Rockcliffe and Emma McNeely) no longer have children at St John's and the challenging circumstances of the summer term meant that it was difficult to identify replacements at that time. So we are now putting a plea out there to ask parents to consider stepping forward!

The Chair role does not have to be too onerous and can be one of mainly coordination and oversight. The Chair and team have full autonomy over how many and which fundraising activities to run and most activities can be managed by sub-teams rather than the Chair themselves. There is no fixed program of events that has to be followed, especially given the nature of this extraordinary year, and obviously there will need to be changes made to the way things are done.

The Chair is supported by the treasurer, Gisela Boomgaarden, the trustees and also the parent Class Reps. Mel and Emma are also more than happy to meet with the new Chair as much as is needed to make sure everything is handed over fully and to provide support during the first year.

The role has been performed by parents in all sorts of circumstances over the years: parents who are at home, as well as those who are working; by mums and by dads. It can also work well if a team of two or three people can share the role. Those who have done it have found it to be an extremely rewarding way to contribute to our wonderful school and special community.

Please do have a think about whether this is something you'd be able to consider and please speak to Mrs Read if you'd like to have a chat about it.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Tonnie Read
Interim Executive Headteacher

