

Welcome to Our School

The Winchcombe School



Introducing The Friends of the Winchcombe School

This information has been put together by The Friends of the Winchcombe School to explain our role in our school community. Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved! This booklet provides you with information about The Friends of the Winchcombe School and lets you know how you can join in.

Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a PTA that's an integral part of the school community. Over the last 5 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. The Friends of the Winchcombe School 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 they only have a small amount of time available. All families are automatically members when their child joins our school.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee consists of **Vicki Jackson (Chair) Kathryn Bowers (Treasurer), Katharine Shaw (Secretary), Emma Oliver and Becki Killingsworth.**

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; any member can come along, find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

Volunteers

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and need volunteers to commit some of their time to helping the association. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at an event, wrapping lucky dip prizes, folding raffle tickets or planning an event (just a few examples) would be invaluable. We simply cannot run our events without you. We all want to run fun events for our children so we must work together to make them happen. If you would like to let us know how you can help please speak to a committee member, come along to our next meeting or email us – winchcombefriends@gmail.com. There is also a reply slip at the back of this booklet to be completed and emailed to us.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting provides an excellent opportunity for all parents 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

Our PTA is a member of Parentkind, which is 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 of our association run events and gives access to support and advice on running the association plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips

Parentkind also provide resources for Parents, 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, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

Summer Fete

Uniform Sales

Ice Cream Sales

Christmas Fayre

Cake Sales

Non -Uniform Days

Discos

Raffles

Book Sales

Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes and auction lots or offers of services and skills.

We have several initiatives running in the background which raise funds with hardly an effort: firstly please sign up to Easy Fundraising at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/winchcombeschool to raise money while you shop online – it's free to do but is an easy way to raise funds while you shop.

We also have an online School Lottery: Draws are taking place weekly, you can take part any time and for as long as you like. Visit www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/the-winchcombe-school to register, choose your lucky numbers and decide whether to play every week by direct debit or choose 'one off payment' for a block of 1, 3, 6 or 12 months.

There is at least 1 winner per school per week, plus the chance of winning the £25,000 jackpot. It's open to all so please share with family and friends to maximise sales - it's a great way to support FoWS and you could be a winner!

We have a donation bin in the reception area at school where you can donate uniform at any time which we sell to other parents for a small donation. For details of how to donate or buy uniform please, join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthewinchcombeschool.

We also have a collection bin for used printer cartridges in the school reception area which we collect and receive donations for.

We have been restricted on the large events we can run at school since 2020, but we have been inventive in the meantime! We were thrilled to be able to hold our first big event for 2022, our summer BBQ in July. It was a beautiful sunny day, we had over 400 hundred people attend, we had burgers and hot dogs, candy floss and cakes, an ice cream van plus games for the children, a bouncy castle and a fire engine from the Newbury fire station even came to join the fun. A fantastic time was had by all and lots of money raised!

We have some great plans in store for the new school year already, but if you have any ideas for fundraising initiatives please do contact us, we are always happy to hear from you.

How we spend the money we raise

The PTA committee are responsible for deciding how our funds are spent. 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 feedback.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. 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

School Bags

Leavers Books

Playground Equipment

Classroom Visualisers

Pantomime Visits

Tablets

How we keep you up to date

Our newsletter will be sent out regularly by email, this includes information on upcoming events and dates as well as details of the help we are looking for at larger events. Following an event, we always write to let you know how much was raised, and when we reach our target, we tell you what the money will be spent on

If you have access to Facebook, please join our group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthewinchcombeschool>

Please complete the form below to tell us how you would like to get involved and return it to the school office.

We look forward to hearing from you!

FOWS Volunteer Questionnaire

Friends of the Winchcombe School Registered Charity No. 1197925

Please complete the below form and return to the School office or winchcombefriends@gmail.com

Your Name:		Contact no:	
Child's name and class:		Email:	
Preferred Contact Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Whatsapp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What sort of events would you enjoy attending, e.g. Quiz Night, Bingo, Film afternoon, Craft Workshop? Please add your own suggestions. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What sort of events would your child/ren enjoy attending, e.g Disco, Film event, Craft Workshop? Please ask your children for their suggestions. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please list any skills or talents you have that FoWS might be able to use: e.g. computers skills, creative, sociable, painting, carpentry, gardening, baking, financial, marketing, food hygiene certificate, first aid qualification, DBS checked by the school or anything else you think may be useful. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you work for/own a company that might be prepared to support FoWS by donating a raffle prize or sponsoring a stall at our Summer Fete or Christmas event? If yes, please give details. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you work for a company that has a match funding scheme for employees, such as a bank or building society? Vodafone, Micro Focus, and Bayer all offer these schemes. If you don't know, would you be prepared to ask? 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you be interested in supporting the committee to help plan and organise events as a class representative?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you like more information about joining the committee, the roles and responsibilities and the time commitment involved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything specific you would like FoWS to fund? Please give details:

Our AGMs are open to all members of FoWS, not just the elected committee members. It is the chance to tell you about the achievements and the difference FoWS has made as well as to provide information about future events and funding. We need the support of parents so that decisions taken at the AGM are valid and in line with our constitution. Details for the next AGM will be sent nearer the time; in the meantime can you please register your interest in attending:

- Yes, I am interested in attending the AGM
 No, I am not interested in attending.