



**Wow! Sunshine
Coaches p2**



**Shop online; raise
funds! p 3**



**Staff Christmas
Raffle p4**

COMING SOON:

**FORGS AGM
(by Zoom)
Date to be
confirmed**

**Bags2School
Date to be
confirmed**

FRIENDS OF RED GATES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2021 – Spring Term 2022

Chair's Greeting

😊 Hello to all our lovely Red Gates Parents, Carers, Families, Friends, Staff and Governors, I hope that our first Friends Newsletter of 2022 finds you and your lovely families all keeping safe and well.

Firstly, on behalf of the 'Friends of Red Gates School' committee, I'd like to say a huge "Well Done!" and convey sincere, heart-felt thanks and appreciation to Head Teacher Lorraine and Deputy Head Teacher Melissa, to the Management and Admin Teams, to each of our fantastic Staff and Class Teams, to Dave & Tony - our brilliant Caretakers - & to the wonderful Governors, all of whom have worked so hard and have done absolute wonders for all our amazing children and families as always, keeping us all connected during these challenging times. Bless your hearts! Thank you SO much!! You are all superstars!! ✨

A special mention and heart-felt thank you too to our dear 'Friends' Vice Chair Etienne and lovely 'Friends' Treasurer and Secretary, Carrie Diboll and Jen Fone, who do an absolutely outstanding job behind the scenes and with all the monies and administration of FORGS, bless your hearts! ❤️ All your time and hard work are truly appreciated; well done and thank you amazing Committee! You're the best! We just couldn't do it without you! And last but not least, a super special "Thank you!" to you, all our wonderful parents and carers, for your absolutely fantastic support! We just couldn't do it without you too.

During this past academic year of being in the midst of the pandemic, it has just been so uplifting and encouraging seeing how all our amazing children & staff have adapted SO brilliantly with the changes needed to be implemented in school to keep us safe in line with the government guidelines.

It has been real team work all the way with a wonderful family atmosphere of togetherness which really does make Red Gates SO special!

Holly Longster – Chair, Friends of Red Gates School

FORGS' COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chair: Holly Longster

Vice Chair: Etienne Prophet Becker

Treasurer: Carrie Diboll

Secretary: Jen Fone

forgs@redgates.croydon.sch.uk

FUNDRAISING IDEAS/EVENTS FOR 2022:

Red Gates Recipe Book (thanks Cathy!)

Treasure Hunt

Quiz Night

Colour Fun Bubble Run

BIG NEWS!

♥ 🚌 Variety New Sunshine Coaches 🚌 ♥



We are absolutely over the moon to share with you the news that Red Gates School are now the very proud owners of not one but two amazing Variety Sunshine Coaches!

From buying a raffle ticket, making cakes, grand auctions, handmade jewellery and crafts, gift donations, tombolas, quiz nights, sponsored swims, bounces and 10K runs - even sky-diving school staff (Big up to Gill! ♥). Yes, you name it, you've done it, in the years-long quest to get our lovely Red Gates children out and about, safely and comfortably, in Variety style. Our unquantifiable thanks are extended to everyone, with a special thanks to Variety, The Children's Charity and our extremely generous sponsors, Crest Nicholson.



Pupils and staff enjoyed a fantastic celebration when the keys to the coaches were officially handed to Head Teacher Lorraine at the end of September. The official grand presentation was followed by a whole school 'Thank you' assembly.

We were delighted to warmly welcome our special guests, Honorary Friend and former FORGS Treasurer Amanda, Keeley and Lubka from Variety, The Children's Charity, and Eileen and Natalie from the construction firm Crest Nicholson, which amazingly sponsored our application for the coaches. We are incredibly grateful for all their kindness, help and support to Red Gates!

We'd also like to express our whole-hearted and sincere thanks and appreciation to Dragana from Variety. Dragana couldn't be with us at the presentation but supported our application every step of the way, really going above and beyond to help us, even when Covid delayed all the plans.

There were lots of balloons in celebration of the official handover (thanks to all the staff for blowing them up!), and so much excitement and giggles filling the air as photos were taken. The children loved exploring the buses and gave the guests a joyous rendition of "The Wheels on the bus!" being sung and signed!

Leading up to the Grand Presentation, all our classes celebrated by making 'minibus' shaped biscuits, and some were given to our wonderful guests who were invited for afternoon tea! This was followed by the special whole school assembly whereupon our guests were presented with flowers and beautiful "Thank you" cards, specially handmade by our Red Gates children.



The coaches will enable our amazing children to spread their wings into the community through experiencing lots of wonderful, exciting outings and adventures with their classes. Through everyone's kindness and support, we are now seeing this Red Gates dream come true, making lots of happy, 'Sunshine' memories for years to come.

A 'Shout Out' to the Friends, Families and Former Committee Members who have given their time and effort to support FORGS: Jason, Indira, Arjun & Ravih, Gill, Vicky & Paul, Dave & Tony, Phil, Matthew and Hope, Dolcie, Amy and Lyn, Ollie, Lydie, Cathy, Melissa and family, MJ's Dad, Lorraine, Ian, Vicky, Leah, Maria, Amanda, Carmen, Nicole, Anne, Tania, Rebecca, Eileen, Julia & Ian, Emma, Bee, Alliey's son, Apollos, Becky, Rita & Abel, Luke, Sylvie, Antonio, Simon, Wendy, Charles, Jackie, Gemma and Abi





DID YOU KNOW

You can raise a free donation to Friends of Red Gates School when you shop online?

Thank you so much for your ongoing support, you'll be helping to make a real difference to Friends of Red Gates School!

Just a quick reminder of this fantastic and easy 'free' way where everyone can support our fantastic Red Gates School. It can help us when you go shopping online and doesn't cost a thing!

There are over 4,000 retailers including John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay, M&S, Just Eat, Now TV, Domino's Pizza and Audible ready to give a free donation every time you shop online via easyfundraising@.

Plus, if you sign up and raise £5 in donations, easyfundraising@ will give Red Gates School a bonus £5 donation!

It only takes 2 minutes to sign up – here's how:

1. Go to a search engine on your PC or phone and click on Friends of Red Gates School Easy Fundraising
2. Click 'support this cause' and create an account
3. Choose from over 4,000 retailers to do your online shopping as normal and Friends of Red Gates School will receive a free donation with every purchase you make

Huge thanks to TA Viv, who has raised over £15.00 for FORGS via easyfundraising@



Friends of Red Gates School (FORGS)

Who we are and what we do

FORGS is a registered charity managed voluntarily by four elected committee members, supported the families, guardians, carers and friends of Red Gates and Willow Tree pupil, and the school staff.

FORGS was set up to raise additional funds for the pupils of Red Gates School, to enrich their lives with equipment, visits and events, extra to those provided by the usual school means.

Pupils' primary caregivers are automatic members of Friends of Red Gates School and are eligible to vote for committee members and stand as a trustee. Better still, please get involved in any way you can – all help is gratefully welcomed!

We have an Annual General Meeting (AGM) where members can nominate and/or vote in the committee members for the year ahead. We also enjoy meeting each term to discuss events and ideas for fundraising. Please come and join us, and you can be assured of a very warm welcome and a cupcake (or two!) Notice of our meetings is sent out in pupil's bags and by text.

We truly appreciate all your welcome offers of time, skills and fundraising ideas, as well your lovely handiwork, cakes and other items you are happy to donate to FORGS, all of which bring extra joy and opportunities to the children of Red Gates School and Willow Tree Nursery.

Any feedback, questions or ideas? We'd love to hear from you! forgs@redgates.croydon.sch.uk

LOOKING BACK AT FORGS 2021

FORGS are always keen to help fundraise and organise fun events throughout the school calendar for all our lovely children to enjoy! In light of these unprecedented times, and understandably so, we have sadly been unable to hold most of our usual events, but we have done our very best in the situation to bless all our amazing children. Here's a round-up of what we've been able to do, thanks to the incredible support of the wonderful Red Gates community.

Bags2School!

Thank you ever so much indeed for very kindly sending in your bags of unwanted clothing, paired shoes, handbags and soft toys towards our November 'Bags2School' Fundraiser held on the 25th November. We are very pleased to say that we raised a fantastic **£100.00** which is wonderful news. Well done to everyone!

If you've started to accumulate more of these items over the Christmas holidays, please hold on to them! We will be planning a Spring 'Bags2School' - watch this space!

Christmas Presents!

FORGS always enjoy being 'Santa's Little Helper' and once again we were so delighted to have been able to provide all our wonderful children with a lovely Christmas present. With the school needing to close earlier due to the Covid guidelines, Father Christmas had been safely looking after all the gifts ready to enjoy giving out to all our lovely children to take home in January!



The last week of Autumn term is usually a whirlwind of activity for FORGS with our very popular Toy and Chocolate/Sweetie Tombolas, Grand Raffle & Cake Stalls held in the school foyer on the days of our children's spectacular Christmas Show and carol concert. It's always a joy to see all our lovely parents, carers and families together, and we are always so very grateful for the amazing generosity shared with us in fundraising for the children.

Again, due to Covid guidelines, our Christmas plans couldn't go ahead. We were, however, delighted to be able to provide Christmas cupcakes to each of our lovely children who all worked so hard rehearsing for their brilliant shows. Thank you ever so much indeed to you, our lovely parents and carers, for all the kind donations, which are truly appreciated, bless you.

Staff Raffle!

Keeping to Covid rules, we were able to hold a belated 'Christmas Raffle' for staff, to raise funds for resources for our amazing children to enjoy.

A grand total of **£165.00** was made, with everyone a winner!

**WELL DONE AND THANK YOU
TO OUR LOVELY STAFF TEAM!**



Special heart-felt thank yous go to our lovely Amy Knight and her dear Mum Lyn for very kindly providing gorgeous home-made Christmas sweetie sleighs and Angel wings prizes, and to lovely TA Nicky, for very kindly providing fantastic hair and beauty gift vouchers. And a big thank you to everyone who donated lovely goodies.

