



FRIENDS OF RED GATES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2022 - Summer 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Easyfundraising

Congratulations, Hellos and Goodbyes

Red Gates Fun Afternoon 2023

Events and Photos 2022-23

Save the Dates 2023-24



FORGS' OFFICERS 2023-2024:

Chair:

Holly Longster

Treasurer:

Carrie Diboll

Secretary:

Jen Fone

😊Hello there to all our lovely Red Gates Parents, Carers, Families, Friends, Staff and Governors, we hope our end of Summer Term Friends Newsletter 2023 finds you and your lovely families all keeping safe and well.

Firstly, as 'Friends of Red Gates School', we'd like to take this opportunity of wholeheartedly thanking our amazing superstar Head Teacher Melissa, and Deputy Head, Vicky, and School Business Manager, Eileen, who do such an absolutely incredible job of leading our school, always encouraging each of us every step of the way on our colourful journey where we can all become the very best that we can be, together with their wonderful LMT, Behaviour Team, IT and Admin Teams, the therapists, specialists and school nurse, each of our fantastic Staff and Class Teams, Dave & Tony, our brilliant Caretakers, and our wonderful Governors - our whole Red Gates Family - each of whom have worked SO hard and have done absolute wonders for all our amazing children and families. Thank you SO much!! You are all superstars!! ✨

A very special mention and heart-felt thank you and appreciation go to our lovely 'Friends' Treasurer, Carrie Diboll and lovely Secretary, Jen Fone, who both do such an absolutely amazing job behind the scenes with all the monies, financial, administration and smooth running of FORGS, bless your hearts! ❤️ I am SO truly grateful to you for all your time, wisdom and amazing hard work, thank you so much lovelies! You are both Superstars! 😊

I'd also like to say a special heart-felt "Thank you too!" to Mr K Uwaraj, Ashwin's dear Dad who very kindly stepped in to serve on our Friend's Committee this past year as Vice Chair - we are sincerely grateful to you for all wonderful support, bless your heart!

And of course, last but not least, a very special and huge heart-felt "Thank you!" to You! - our wonderful Parents, Carers and Families, for all your absolutely amazing support too! We just couldn't do it without you! You are all super Friends of Red Gates School! We are privileged to teach and care for all your amazing children here at Red Gates and are honoured to be able to run FORGS and bless your children with the special joys and opportunities the charity was set up to provide. It has been real team work all the way, with a wonderful family atmosphere of togetherness, which makes Red Gates so truly special! Thank you SO much!

As you know, our Friends of Red Gates School (FORGS) are always keen to help fundraise and organise fun events for all our lovely children to enjoy! It has been so extra special this school year, since the end of the nationwide pandemic restrictions with the Government gave us the 'all clear' and 'go ahead,' so that we could all, once again, safely join together and enjoy all the wonderful activities and events as Red Gates Family. It was great to be able to warmly welcome you all back in to school once again and to see you enjoying and supporting all our lovelies at their Colour Fun Bubble Run, Christmas Show, Christmas Stalls, Sports Days, Football Match, cake sales, workshops, the Art Gallery (during our Red Gates School Festival Week), and the wonderful Celebrations of Achievements.

✨We'd love to share with you some of our Friends' highlights this School Year, September 2022-July 2023, and tell you about some more fun times to look forward to! ✨

God bless, with lots of love and hugs

Holly





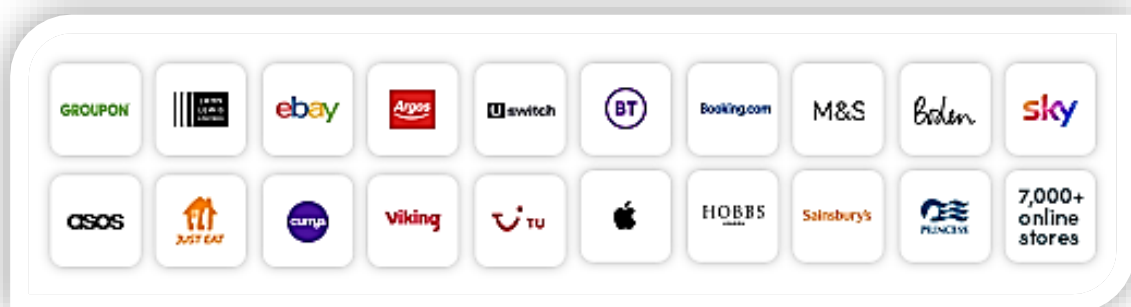
Would you like to raise a free donation for FORGS?

We're now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE! Over 7000 brands will donate to FORGS when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE!

These donations really do mount up,
so please click on the link below to sign up and support us at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofredgatesschool/>



*A special, heartfelt thank you to our lovely
TA Viv, our number 1 Easy Fundraiser!
Go Viv!!*

Congratulations

FORGS would like to wholeheartedly congratulate and celebrate our very own, lovely Melissa and Vicky for being appointed to the Acting Head Teacher and Acting Deputy Head Teacher roles at Red Gates. Wowee!! We are all truly blessed indeed. Your first-class leadership, teaching, love, care, kindness, support, help, expertise, understanding, and wisdom are beyond measure! You are such an amazing blessing to our whole Red Gates family and we cannot thank you lovelies enough for all that you do for us, bless your hearts.

Welcome!

We warmly welcome all the new pupils and their families into our Friends of Red Gates School community. We are really looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know you and your lovely children as they grow on their Red Gates journey.

We hope you will be able to come along to our Fun Day on 24th September and 'meet the Red Gates family', while we share an informal and fully inclusive afternoon of celebration for all that we stand for here at Red Gates. We promise it will make you smile!

If you have any specific access requirements, or if there is anything at all you would like to ask us about the event beforehand, or any concerns you would like us to be aware of, please email us at forgs@redgates.croydon.sch.uk or call the school and leave a message for FORGS, and one of us will get back to you as soon as possible.

We really do hope to see you there!

Heartfelt Goodbyes

Our amazing Year 6 Leavers

We are truly sad to be saying Farewell to you all. We are going to miss you all so much, and have so many happy memories of your days with us at Red Gates. Each of you are amazing and we just know you will shine like the superstars that you are. Our love and hugs go with you and we look forward to seeing you and your lovely families soon and to hearing how you're doing at your new schools.

We will
never
forget
you



Our lovely Staff Leavers

We would also like to wish each of our lovely staff team who will sadly be leaving us, all the very best indeed as you move onto pastures new! You have each been amazing and we will miss you lots too.

We know each of you lovelies will shine and be a blessing wherever you go, and our love and hugs go with you too.

Shine on, Superstars!

Red Gates Fun Afternoon 2023

Sunday 24th September

12 noon – 3pm

Bring a Picnic!

**Bubble
Machines**

Musical Parade

Cakes!

**Parachute
Games**

**Fundraiser
Stalls**

**Gordon the
Magician**

**Sign-along
Song Time**

FREE ENTRY!

**Celebrate belonging to our amazing school family,
in true Red Gates style - the BEST style!**

**😊 Come along, be yourself – everybody welcome 😊
We hope to see you there!**

FORGS' FUNDRAISING

Autumn 2022 - Summer 2023

With the end of the nationwide pandemic restrictions, we returned to full fundraising action this year - YAY! It's been tremendous to welcome families back in to school, and to see everyone applauding and cheering on all our lovelies at the performances and sports events.

The grand total this year is simply AMAZING!



Thank you SO much



EVENTS

£2948.36

GRAND TOTAL

**HEARTFELT THANKS
FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY**

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



For the first time since the pandemic, we were able to run our popular Christmas tombolas, grand raffle, and cake sales - wow! Your children all did so well during the performances and it was such a joy to see all our lovely families and carers coming together again. Thank you to everyone for your wonderful and generous donations of raffle prizes, toys books and games, and for buying tickets and cakes. You'll be pleased to know we raised **over £360** in those three days - well done everyone!



**FORGS' FANTASTIC
SPONSORED SWIMMERS**



Last month we held our exciting fun annual Sponsored Swim Event at Royal Russell School Swimming Pool (just up the hill from us). Royal Russell very kindly and generously gave Red Gates the use of their pool and lifeguards free for an hour where we enjoy having the whole pool to ourselves to complete as many lengths as we are able!

A huge well done and heart-felt "Thank You!" to all our fantastic swimmers taking part - you all did absolutely amazingly well! We are all so proud of you and you should be ever so proud of your achievements with all our super swimmers achieving their set swimming target within the hour! A super "well done!" to our superstar swimmers, our fabulous Vicky, our lovely Melissa and her lovely children, Scarlett, Dougie and Willow and superstars, dear Antonio and his lovely daughter Valentina, (and not forgetting Valentina, your gorgeous pink flamingo!) and to dear Carole and Holly and of course a heart-felt "Thank you!" to you all for your very kind and generous sponsors and wonderful support of all our fantastic swimmers! You will be pleased to know that between us we've raised well **over £400** for Red Gates which is an absolutely fantastic amount!! Well done, Team!!

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

RED GATES ART GALLERY CAKES AND RAFFLE



We held a special raffle and yummy cake stall at the Art Gallery and performances during Red Gates Festival Week.

It was fantastic to be part of such a special event, which showcased the many talents of our wonderful children and the staff who support them.

Well done to everyone involved, and congratulations to everyone who won a prize in the raffle.



Bag2School

Bag2School collects second hand clothing and other items. We ask families and staff to send in their bag (or bags!) twice a year. Bag2School weighs the bags and gives FORGS a generous payment in return! Win-Win! School will let you know of the collection dates. Please give your bag to the escort if your lovelies come to school by transport. Thank you SO MUCH! The Autumn collection raised **£76**.



Such a joyous event! And a penalty shoot-out too!! The cheering and community spirit were second to none, and it was wonderful to welcome our lovely parents, carers, and families in to school for such a sunny and fun-filled afternoon. A super special FORGS shout-out to the cheerleading team who made their debut appearance this year. What a fantastic addition to an already wonderful event! Well done everyone. The football match cake sale and donations on the day raised a fabulous **£115.50**.



Coral Class Superstar Bakers

A big WOW and shout-out to Coral Class for making an outstanding celebratory cake for the football match. Well done and thank you so much!! It was a masterpiece and you did Red Gates real proud. Aqua TA Caroline purchased the cake to kindly share with the staff team - thanks Caroline.

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



We held a special Easter raffle for staff to have fun and participate in raising funds to buy resources for our amazing children to enjoy. Thank you staff for all your wonderful generosity and support; we raised **£165.55**.

And not forgetting...

Sports Day Cake Sales

It was so lovely to have everyone together again, proudly cheering on their fantastic children and even taking part in the Mums' and Dads' races on the first two sunny days. The spectators' encouragement and cheering on the last, rainy sports day rang through reception and lit up the smiles of everyone nearby! Huge thanks for your scrumptious donations and kind generosity, which raised a fantastic **£160.40**.

Quiz Night

The FORGS Quiz Night was such a fun evening, with all the brilliant teams battling it out with friendly competition and lots of laughter and banter along the way. Our caretaker Dave kindly recommended Dennis's Chippy in Coney Hall, to provide fish and chip suppers which were included in the ticket price. The night also included a Grand Raffle and a half-time Heads and Tails game, won by our lovely Admin star, Tania. HUGE Thanks to fantastic Quiz Master Teacher Becky and to Carrie, Carmen, Dave, Vicky and Viv for helping to set up the hall and raffle table so beautifully, Thanks to Matthew and Phil Longster for helping with the PA system, collating the questions and logging the results. Congratulations to winners the Admin Team. Everyone said they had such a fantastic time, and we had the added bonus of raising over **£250** for our fantastic school, well done!

Sponsored Bounce

Wow, what a fabulous bunch of bouncing superstars our amazing Red Gates children are! Our Sponsored Bounce was held this year in the school hall at the end of October on a big, bright castle kindly provided by Kelly's Kastles. We can't thank each of you enough for your truly kind and generous sponsorships of your children's bounces. They all did brilliantly and we were so proud of them all. The event raised a staggering **£919**.

A special heartfelt thank you SO much to Oscar in Lilac Class, who has been nominated as our Friends Fundraising Superstar of the Year - great job Oscar, and our heartfelt thanks to all his lovely family and to everyone who kindly sponsored him.

FORGS' GIFTS TO SCHOOL

FORGS loves giving back!

The other side of FORGS' purpose is to provide funds for extra equipment and play items, for the development of play areas, and for trips and outings for the pupils.

This year FORGS has had the immense pleasure of donating monies, time and talents to enrich the pupils' school days by way of parties, gifts and exciting learning opportunities.

Autumn Term

We started the FORGS' year with our annual Colour Fun Bubble Party. Wow! What a wonderful way to start our Autumn Term and School Year events ☺ Each year we love to celebrate how pleased and proud we are to belong to such an amazing and outstanding school as Red Gates, and we thoroughly enjoy celebrating our wonderful Red Gates family. In September 2022, we warmly gathered new children and families and our lovely Red Gates children, parents, families, carers, friends, staff and their families and governors for a fantastic afternoon of celebration including lots of colours, lots of bubbles, a musical parade, singing and singing, and parachute and football games, plus cakes and a wonderful magic show.

This year's event will see even more going on, including 'bring a picnic' and some fun fundraiser stalls. We're changing the name to 'Red Gates Fun Afternoon', but there will still be lots of colour and bubbles! We look forward to seeing you there on Sunday 24th September.



Sing and Sign in the Hall



Parachute Games in the Playground



Gordon the Magician and his bunny

Spring Term

Valentines Disco

Before breaking up for February half term, our amazing classes enjoyed a lovely time at our special Valentine's celebration, with a fun party disco playing all their favourites in a hall full of balloons, bubbles, lights and of course lots of happy children dancing. During the day all our lovelies enjoyed decorating and eating heart-shaped biscuits and were each given a Valentine's Day goody bag to take home too!

Huge, heartfelt thanks go to Honorine in the Communications Team, who did a really impressive job making our very first Valentine's balloon arch for the party hall - wow! It looked AMAZING and was a huge hit with the children and staff 😊

CORONATION MUGS

FORGS was delighted to be able to gift each of the children their very own commemorative mug in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III. So special!!

It was wonderful to see the children coming up with their designs and creating their masterpieces. The artwork was then professionally transferred on to their very own mug that they can keep forever.

Big thanks to our lovely Treasurer, Carrie, for kindly putting forward this suggestion.

Summer Term

The end of term saw our exciting Red Gates festival taking place, where all our amazing children get to enjoy a variety of extra-curricular activities, partly funded by your amazing donations to FORGS throughout the school year.

FORGS were delighted to once again fund 'Bubble and Squidge' a fantastic duo who entertained each of our classes with a brilliant bubble extravaganza workshop, including giving each child the experience of being encased within their very own gigantic bubble - wowzers!

FORGS were pleased to provide again, by popular demand, their very own Ice Cream Parlour, so that each of our lovely children and staff can get to choose and enjoy a refreshing iced treat in the heat!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU



We were so delighted to be able to warmly welcome back to Red Gates our good old jolly friend Father Christmas, with heartfelt thanks and appreciation to lovely Melissa's Dad John Nicholls, for making this all possible! Due to the pandemic lockdowns significantly impacting FORGS finances, we were unable to fund this tradition in 2022. John raised the bar of kindness and very generously provided all our wonderful children with a Christmas present - Wowee! Thank you SO MUCH John, for putting great big smiles on all our lovelies' faces.

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to John for very kindly presenting FORGS with an extremely kind and generous gift of money, which will be blessing all our amazing children - John, we can't thank you enough.

SAVE THE DATES!

FORGS @ Inset Day (staff only)	Tues 5th Sept.
FORGS @ Starter Programme (new families only)	Mon 18th Sept.
Red Gates Fun Afternoon Everybody welcome!	Sun 24th Sept. 12 noon - 3pm
Friends' Coffee Mornings	Tues 26th Sept. Weds 24th Jan. Thurs 16th May
Quiz Night Everybody welcome	Fri 6th Oct.
Sponsored Bounce (children & staff only)	Thurs & Fri 9th & 10th Nov.
Valentines Disco (children and staff)	Fri 9th Feb.
Easter Raffle (staff only)	Thurs 26th Mar.
Sponsored Swim Everybody welcome!	Sat 25th May (tbc)

Details will be sent out nearer the time

We end with our very best wishes to you all for a very happy, safe, and healthy summer!

God bless you and so looking forward to seeing you again in September!

With lots of love from your

'Friends of Red Gates School' Committee 😊

forgs@redgates.croydon.sch.uk