



This year's fundraising
p 2-3



Sponsored Swim
p 3



Hello and Goodbyes
p 4-5



Looking Ahead p6

FRIENDS OF RED GATES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2022

Chair's Greeting

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

Firstly, as 'Friends of Red Gates School', we know you'd like to join us in saying a huge "Well Done!" and conveying sincere, heart-felt thanks and appreciation to both our lovely Lorraine and Melissa, Management and Admin Teams, each of our fantastic Staff and Class Teams, Dave & Tony - our brilliant Caretakers, - & our wonderful Governors, all of whom have worked SO hard and have done absolute wonders for all our amazing children and families as always, and keeping us all connected during these challenging times, what with COVID and extreme weather temperatures. Bless your hearts! Thank you SO much!! You are all superstars!! ✨

A special mention and heartfelt thank you and appreciation too go to our very own and lovely 'Friends' Officers, Vice Chair Etienne, Treasurer Carrie, and Secretary Jen, who do such an amazing job behind the scenes with the smooth running of FORGS, bless your hearts. We are SO truly grateful to you for all your time, wisdom and amazing hard work. Thank you so much, lovelies 😊.

During this past academic year of managing the ups and downs of the pandemic, it has just been so uplifting and encouraging seeing how all our amazing children and staff have adapted SO brilliantly with the changes needed to be implemented in school to keep us safe in line with government guidelines. And a special "Thank you!" to you, all our wonderful parents and carers for all your absolutely fantastic support too! We just couldn't do it without you! Thank you! You're all amazing Friends of Red Gates School!

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

Lots of love, Holly – Chair, Friends of Red Gates School

FORGS' COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chair: Holly Longster

Vice Chair: Mr Uvaraj

Treasurer: Carrie Diboll

Secretary: Jen Fone

forgs@redgates.croydon.sch.uk



FoRGS' Highlights 2021-2022

Variety Sunshine Coaches

WOW, WOW, WOW! We received our two Sunshine Coaches from Variety Club of Great Britain, kindly sponsored by construction firm Crest Nicholson; to both organisations, we extend our immeasurable thanks. At an amazing presentation ceremony, special guests from Variety and Crest Nicholson joined FoRGS Trustees past and present, school staff and, of course, our wonderful pupils, in celebrating the official handing over of the coaches to Red Gates and Willow Tree. Balloons, songs and smiles filled the air, and our superstar children did a marvellous job at welcoming and entertaining our visitors. Following afternoon tea, thank you gifts and bus shaped biscuits were presented to our guests at a special whole school assembly. We really are so grateful to each one of you for every single donation that made this amazing opportunity possible. Since getting the coaches, all classes Reception -Year 6 have been able to enjoy regular swimming sessions, and the year 6 pupils have been horse-riding. The Sunshine coaches will truly enhance our lovely Red Gates' children's school days for years to come.

Autumn
Term

Sept 21

—

Dec 21

Spring
Term

Jan 22

—

April 22

Red Gates Football Match

This was our first Red Gates event since the pandemic where we could welcome all Parents/Carers and Families back in to School! Hurray! What a joyous celebration it was - just like old times!

Thank you ever so much indeed for sending in all your delicious cake donations and for purchasing so many too! It was a tremendous contribution and we are so very grateful to you for all your kindness and generosity, which raised a whopping **£174.50**

A very special FORGS thank you goes out to dear Denise, Remy's Nan (in Violet Class), who very kindly made a spectacular Chocolate Red Velvet especially for the occasion. This was raffled off to the lucky winner and raised an amazing **£30**! Thank you so much Denise and Remy!! And also thank you to the very kind winner, who very generously donated it back to Red Gates, bless your heart!

Red Gates Sports Days

What a beautifully sunny days we had for each of our classes' Sports Days with all our amazing children doing brilliantly with their races! Again, just like the Football Match, it was just so lovely having everyone together again and such a very proud moment cheering on all our fantastic children as well as the mums and dads races too!

A huge thank you to each of you for all your lovely donations of cakes for our stall which looked absolutely scrumptious! Thanks to your very kind generosity we made a fantastic grand total of **£149.40**

A special thank you too to dear Dave and Tony who kindly helped with the setting up and to dear Jen, Vicky and Paul who kindly helped serve all our delicious cakes to everyone and to dear Melissa and Lorraine for all your kind help too with the setting down.

Summer
Term

April 22

—

July 22



FORGS' Fantastic Sponsored Swim



After two years on hold, we held our exciting Sponsored Swim at Royal Russell School Swimming Pool (just up the hill from Red Gates) on Saturday 9th July. Royal Russell very generously gave Red Gates the use of their pool and 2 lifeguards free for an hour, where we enjoyed having the whole pool to ourselves to complete as many lengths as we were able!

A huge well done and heart-felt "Thank You!" to all our fantastic swimmers and cheerleaders! All our super swimmers achieved their set swimming target within the hour. You all did amazingly well! We are all so proud of you and you should be ever so proud of your achievements. And not forgetting a shout-out to our wonderful and encouraging cheerleaders, Jen, Christina and Athena.

And, of course, a HUGE heartfelt "Thank You!" to you all for your very kind and generous sponsorship and wonderful support of all our fantastic swimmers!

You will be pleased to know that we've raised well over

£550.00

An absolutely fantastic amount

Well done, Team!!

A super "well done!" to our superstar swimmers, our lovely Melissa and her lovely children, Scarlett, Dougie and Willow and superstars, dear Antonio and his lovely daughter Valentina, (and your gorgeous pink flamingo!) and to our Magenta's class's Holly Hols



Bag2School

We held 'Bag2School' fundraisers in November and April, raising a joint total of **£180.00**. Thank you ever so much indeed for very kindly sending in your bags of clothing, shoes, handbags and soft toys.

We'll be planning an Autumn Term 'Bags2School', so please hold on to any items you accumulate over summer. Watch this space for news of the date!

For more info about Bag2School see:

<https://bag2school.com/>

And not forgetting...

Raffles

We were able to hold staff raffles at Christmas and Easter to raise funds for resources for our amazing children to enjoy. Thank you to all our amazing staff for your generosity. A grand total of **£324** was raised through ticket sales

Christmas Stalls

Sadly, we couldn't hold our fundraiser stalls this Christmas, but we gave a cupcake to all of the lovely children who worked so hard rehearsing for their brilliant carol concert and shows, which they shared virtually. Thank you very much indeed for your kind cupcakes donations.

Christmas Presents

We love being 'Santa's Little Helpers', and were delighted to have been able to provide all our wonderful children with a lovely Christmas present. Even though school had to close early, Father Christmas safely looked after all the gifts and gave them out to our lovely children when they returned to school in January!

Very Well Done, Everybody!

FORGS: Friends of Red Gates School

Who we are and what we do

Friends of Red Gates School is a registered charity, set up to provide funds for extra resources and opportunities for the wonderful children of Red Gates School, now including Willow Tree Nursery. FORGS is managed by a committee of elected volunteers - the Trustees – supported by school staff, and the families, carers and friends of our lovely pupils. Current staff, parents and carers get automatic membership to FORGS; other people have to apply via the Committee.

Being a member doesn't mean you HAVE to do anything, but we will keep you updated about FORGS events with our newsletters, texts, flyers and invitations.

We have an Annual General Meeting (AGM) where members nominate and 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 welcome and appreciate all offers of time, skills and fundraising ideas, as well your lovely handiwork, cakes and other items you are happy to donate for our events throughout the school year.

If you have any feedback, questions or ideas you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you!

Please email us at: forgs@redgates.croydon.sch.uk



A Special FoRGS "Hello!"

Our New Committee Member

We are absolutely delighted and so pleased to welcome Mr Uvaraj (Ashwin's Daddy) on to the FoRGS Committee. Mr Uvaraj very kindly agreed to be nominated for the position of Vice Chair at the FoRGS AGM in May, and was voted in by everyone who came along. We very much look forward to working alongside him for the wonderful children of Red Gates School and Willow Tree Nursery.



And some Sad Goodbyes



Lorraine Slee - Head Teacher and FoRGS Committee Member

On behalf of Friends of Red Gates School, we would like to take this opportunity of wholeheartedly thanking our lovely Head Teacher, Lorraine, who is very sadly leaving us and taking retirement. Lorraine, you have been such an absolutely fantastic support, superstar help, and friend to us all, leading and guiding us in all our ventures, ideas and fundraisers, and always there to lend a hand. Your sound advice, wisdom and encouragements have been so greatly appreciated and you have been a tremendous blessing to FoRGS – we are all going to miss you so much! Please know that you'll always be a very special and honorary Friend of Red Gates, and on that note, we're really looking forward to seeing you at our Colour Fun Bubble event and Quiz Night in the Autumn Term 😊

Enjoy your retirement, dear Lorraine, and we wish you every joy and happiness for the future, with your lovely family and in everything that you do. Thank you so much for everything!

Vicky and Paul - Former FORGS Committee and dedicated Friends

We'd also like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank our lovely Vicky and Paul Cooke, Teddy's amazing parents who, since Teddy began here at Red Gates 7 years ago, have been absolutely amazing, faithful Friends of our School. Vicky and Paul have given incredible support at all our fundraisers, helping out at our cake stalls, raffles, the tombola stalls at Christmas, setting up the Colour Fun Bubble events and ALWAYS offering their services with a smile. We cannot thank you enough, lovely couple, for everything and we can't imagine FORGS without you both nor Red Gates without your lovely Teddy. We will miss you all so much! Remember FORGS' door is always open to you and we hope to see you lovelies soon.

Thank
You

Etienne - FORGS Committee

A 'hello' on the Committee means we're also having to say a goodbye. Mr Uvaraj is taking over the baton from Etienne (Israel's Daddy) who, due to working commitments, is sadly stepping down after four years' service as FORGS' Vice Chair. We send a big, heartfelt "thank you" to dear Etienne; we will be so sad to see you go and have greatly appreciated all your wonderful support and advice along the journey, Etienne, as well as your much valued help too, especially with our FoRGS correspondence, Christmas stalls, the Colour Fun Bubble events and the Sunshine Coaches presentation. We will really miss you and wish you all the very best indeed in everything you do. Thank you, Etienne; we hope you will stay in touch and continue being an active Friend of Red Gates School whenever you can.



All of our dear Year 6 Pupils,

We are so truly sad to be saying "Farewell" to our lovely Year 6 Leavers. 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 absolutely amazing and will shine like the superstars you are at your secondary schools, just like you have here. You have brought so much joy and sunshine into our Red Gates days, so we're really pleased that you were able to have a sunny celebration with your Leaver's Prom, complete with your very own DJ, TA Kevin, balloons, bubbles, bunting and party treats. Our love and hugs go with you and we really hope to see you and your families in the near future.

And to all of our leavers' families and carers, we really can't thank you enough for all the support you have given during your years as Friends of Red Gates School. Your contributions have brought extra fun and resources to all of the pupils of the school and nursery, helping to make great memories that will last for years to come. We will miss seeing your lovely selves at our events and stalls, and wish you all the very best indeed for your child's secondary school years.



Teachers and TAs

Wishing all the very best indeed to each of our lovely staff who will be sadly leaving us this week to move on to pastures new. You have been amazing and we will miss you lots. We know each of you lovelies will shine and be a blessing wherever you go, and our love and hugs go with you too!



Looking Ahead:

ideas for future FoRGS' fun and FUNdraisers

Colour Fun Bubble Party

SAVE THE DATE!

Each year we love to celebrate how very pleased and proud we are to belong to such an amazing school as Red Gates, and we thoroughly enjoy celebrating our Red Gates family with a 'Colour Fun Bubble Party'. This is where we warmly welcome our new children and families, and gather together our lovely Red Gates children, parents, carers, families, staff and governors for a fantastic afternoon of celebration. Expect lots of colours, bubbles, a music parade, singing and signing, games, cakes and a magic show!

Our 2022

Colour Fun Bubble Party

is at school on:

Sunday 25th September
2pm - 4pm

sponsored Bounce

With the school needing to close at the beginning of this week due to the extremely high temperatures, we've also needed to postpone our Bouncy Castle sponsored event until September. Please watch this space for our new date, when we know all our wonderful classes will enjoy bouncing away to their hearts' content in much cooler surroundings than we could provide this week.



FORGS' Fun Quiz Night

Expected to go ahead in October; date to be confirmed.

Red Gates Cook Book

At a previous Committee meeting, our friend and former Committee Member, Cathy, came up with the brilliant suggestion of our fantastic school community putting together its very own celebratory Cook Book. What a wonderful idea, where we can celebrate your child's favourite home-cooked dish and get to share this with everyone. This is where we need your help! Thank you!! Over the summer holidays, we'd like you to think about your child's favourite home-made dish – perhaps one that they and you enjoy eating together. Then, once the Autumn term gets underway, we will be sending out a letter, asking you to please send the special recipe into school. All the yummy recipes will then be collected – with pictures or photos please, so we know what we're aiming for! – and made into our very own Red Gates Celebratory Cook Book, with a view to it being printed and ready for sale in time for your preferred gift-giving season. Not only will the book make a lovely present to receive, it will also give our wonderful Red Gates community the fantastic opportunity of experiencing all these mouth-watering dishes! We are so blessed to have so many countries, cultures and cuisines represented at our fabulous school; we're sure that cooking up your favourite recipes will take us on a real taste adventure 😊





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

Last, but by no means least, a huge, heartfelt “thank you!” to each of you for all your continued and wonderful support of Friends of Red Gates School. It's team work all the way and we just couldn't do it without you!

With our very best wishes to you all for a
happy, safe and healthy summer

God bless you, and we look forward to seeing you again in September



**Your ongoing support brings extra joys and fun-filled opportunities
to the children of Red Gates and Willow Tree,
helping to make their school days
'the best ever'**

Thank you!