

06-10-16

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Friends and Year Reps, thank you to everyone who put suggestions in the box and/or came for a chat at the open meeting this week.

As you know, the Friends are the Parents' Association at Annan. Besides running fund-raising events, we are here to build our wonderful community, and to give help, support and information to new and existing parents. Throughout the year we, together with the Year Reps, hold a number of events that provide opportunities for parents to get to know each other a little better. These events take place both on and off site and we very much look forward to seeing you at them.

In the past we have had events such as class meals (lunches / suppers) for parents to get to know each other early in the school year, pamper days, barn dances and auctions of promises. Recent suggestions for community building, fundraising and money spending have included:

- French Club, which has now started!
- A sponsored walk for the children during school hours
- A sponsored walk / run / cycle (or hobble, crawl, roll...) along the Lewes Arts Trail for anyone who would like to
- A pub quiz
- A defibrillator at school, which we could have a specific event to fundraise for
- Mindfulness sessions for the children or training for staff
- A community directory: a list of the skills and/or businesses of the parents in our community who would like to be included
- A forum for parents to share local events, information, etc;
- A child-run café, where the children are responsible for everything from the stock-taking to menu planning, cooking and serving.
- A different Winter Festival this year: our Winter Festival is a magical event which the children and the whole community look forward to, it is our main fundraising event in the year – one suggestion for the event this year has been that we have a celebration of light, with lanterns and singing at twilight... we'll be discussing it at the AGM and would love to hear your views on how we can make this special event successful and truly magical for us all this year.

We would love to hear any other suggestions, and will put the suggestion box out again before the AGM, which is on Thursday 20th October at 9:30am, after drop-off at school – we hope to see as many of you as possible there to share some coffee and croissants and help to make our Friends committee strong and successful for the coming year.

We always welcome new members so if you would like to join the committee or become a class rep, please contact Libby Pearson (Isabella's mum), Helen Marriott-Smith (Matilda's mum) or myself to let us know.

We look forward to seeing you on 20th October,
Best wishes,

Tara Mayhew (Tassy's mum, & Chair of Friends), and the Friends Committee