



Welcome to the Friends of English Martyrs Autumn Newsletter!

FRIENDS OF ENGLISH MARTYRS: OUR PURPOSE

Each and every parent of the school is a member of the Friends of English Martyrs. English Martyrs Catholic School is a voluntary aided school, meaning that the school is partially funded by the government and partially by the school itself.

This association of parents aims to foster a feeling of community within the school through its social events, while simultaneously raising much needed funds to provide our children with the best possible environment for learning. Every parent has something to contribute, be it coming up with an idea, physical participation, such as selling or baking at our coffee afternoons, or establishing useful contacts for the school.

Participation in the committee of the FOEM is on a voluntary basis and meetings will typically take place monthly to discuss ideas for possible events. Parents are welcome to attend any or all of these meetings or alternatively please share ideas you might have via the school office or by contacting committee members.

The role of those involved in the committee include:

- organising fund-raising events
- promoting the school ethos
- providing a point of contact between parents and school

FUNDRAISING REVIEW 2019/20

Great credit is due to staff, parents and children who contributed to a very successful year of fund-raising last year albeit curtailed in March. **We raised £3,065, of which £1,140 was given to charity.**

Last year's events were many and varied, including:

- a quiz night
- social events to celebrate harvest and Christmas
- our Mothers Day sale
- production and sale of school tea towel designed by pupils
- production and sale of pupils' Christmas cards
- own clothes days

FUTURE PLANS

There are many things we are all missing in these strange times, and these include the social contact we have at the gates and events we organise which build the wonderful sense of community at English Martyrs.

As we move towards Christmas, we shall try to develop other initiatives for our children and families to enter the spirit of Christmas. We shall also focus on ways in which we can help one another especially any in our school community facing hardship.

AUTUMN MEETING

Ideally, one or two volunteers from each year group act as class representatives. Their role is to rally participation from other parents when required and to keep parents abreast of what is happening at school.

Our 2020/21 representatives are:

Nursery - Sophie
Reception – Dawn
Y1 - James
Y2 - Hemena
Y3 - Naomi
Y4 - Amy
Y5 - Joanna
Y6 - Riko

All parents are invited to join the class reps for a ZOOM coffee morning to discuss fund-raising and issues relevant to the FOEM. The meeting will take place on next Friday, **20th of November at 10 o'clock**. We can meet our class reps, focus on forthcoming Christmas events and discuss the role of the parents association. New ideas are always welcome. We must also nominate a new Chair of FOEM.

The success of fundraising events will depend entirely on the effort of parents, staff and pupils which is fortunately always forthcoming. Without this, any plans would amount to nothing and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who generously give their time and support to our efforts.

All parents of children attending English Martyrs School are automatically members of the Friends Of English Martyrs.