

Friends of Drakies Primary School – Parent Council
2024/25 – Newsletter 2
April 2025

Hello all,

Wow, how did we get to April? Only one more term to go in this academic year!

This newsletter contains some information about events and changes next term as well as the usual information which is always useful to share again.

Please do get in touch with us personally or via the email drakies.primary@highlandpc.co.uk if you have anything that you wish to ask us, share with us or raise.



Recruitment of Office Bearers

Sadly Rhona Brindle and Eilidh Mackinnon will be stepping down their voluntary positions of Vice Chair and Secretary in the summer and my 3 year term as Chair has also unbelievably come to an end. We are therefore needing to find replacements in order for the Parent Council to continue running. These will be elected at the AGM in May. Chrissi Browne will continue as Treasurer and Eilidh and I will be around the school for several years yet, and will certainly be happy to assist in a smooth transition for months to come.

The parent council consists of 4 office bearer positions and although there are some more obvious duties within each post, it is flexible enough that additional roles can be decided on personal strengths, interests and available time. Commitment varies throughout the year depending on events and planning requirements and works out to be several hours on average each month. The office bearers chat casually to make decisions and FODPS meetings happen every couple of months during term time.

Positions can be held for 1 year or up to 3 years. You do not need any qualifications or to have been on any type of committee before. FODPS is not strict - no-one tells us what to do, we really just do what we can and are keen to do and what supports Drakies Primary School at the time. You actually don't need to know anything in advance as we will pass things on. There is additional support from the wider 'Highland Parent Council Partnership' (for all Highland schools parent council groups) and 'Connect' with whom we are members of, and who offer loads of voluntary training, advice, support and community. Also, there is plenty of support from school management, staff and parents.

I appreciate that we are all busy parents with limited time and so the Parent Council operates with a 'do what you can' approach. I have personally found it a great way to meet other parents, keep abreast of school developments, develop my own skills and ultimately contribute to the school and nursery in order to benefit my children and their peers. These positions need to be filled in order to continue the Parent Council and all the good work that we can achieve.

So if you fancy getting involved, meeting like minded people or just need an excuse to get out of putting washing away then please get in touch with any of us or via email on drakies.primary@highlandpc.co.uk, asap.

Please also get in touch if you would like to find out anymore about the posts and what they entail - we are a very approachable bunch (I hope anyway!). I will also post more information on the FODPS Facebook Page in due course.

(Personally, I didn't plan on being an office bearer, never mind Chairperson or for doing it for 3 years: at the time I had 4 young children, little free time and couldn't actually make most meetings prior to this as I was always feeding my baby and getting other children to bed. But.....no-one else volunteered and I couldn't see FODPS fold and all the previous good work be lost. In the end, I've enjoyed it and it's given me an opportunity to develop skills I had forgotten I had, and to be part of a larger team of wonderful like-minded people who all share the same interest of complementing the experiences our children have at nursery and school. Please feel free to ask me more about it if you wish.)

6 REASONS TO JOIN...

<u>FOR THE CHILDREN</u> BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO SHOW YOUR CHILD YOU VALUE THEIR EDUCATION. THE EVENTS WE PLAN WILL IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. 	<u>FOR YOU</u> VOLUNTEERING IS A REWARDING EXPERIENCE WE PLAN TO HOST MANY SOCIAL EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY AND ALSO TO ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY. 	<u>FOR THE SCHOOL</u> HELP THE SCHOOL TO RAISE FUNDS. HAVE A VOICE IN THE PURCHASES THAT ARE MADE TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN. 
<u>BE CONNECTED</u> THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCHOOL. MEET OTHERS THAT SHARE THE SAME COMMON GOALS TO HELP IMPROVE THE SCHOOL. 	<u>IT IS FUN!</u> WE AIM TO ENJOY OURSELVES IN ALL OUR ROLES. FROM PLANNING EVENTS TO RUNNING A STALL, IT'S EXCITING! 	<u>KEEP IT GOING</u> AS PARENTS LEAVE SCHOOL WE NEED TO KEEP THE COMMITTEE GOING. COME JOIN OUR FRIENDLY TEAM AS MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK! 

"I work full time and help when I am able"

"I really enjoy seeing my grown up help out at events"

"I didn't realise how rewarding it would be"

"I've made life long friends"

AGM

We will hold the FODPS AGM in May sometime (to be decided). This is where we will discuss the activities over the year and more importantly review our financial situation. We will also vote in the new office bearers.

End-of-Term Disco

We had planned an end-of-term disco but unfortunately due to the changes due to take place with the PVG scheme in April and the lack of preparatory guidelines to parents councils from both the Highland Council and Connect (Parent Council Membership) on this matter, we have decided that in these circumstances we need to postpone this. We hope to be able to reschedule this next term.



Summer Fayre - Saturday 7th June, 12-3pm

Rhona has been busy getting the initial plans for this underway - as usual she has some incredible ideas and this day looks to be a day full of fun - pop it in your diary! More will be shared further down the line.

Donation Days

To build a supply of items for some money-making stalls at the Summer Fayre, we will host some fun days, such as crazy hair day, in exchange for a donation of a specific item. The agreed days will be:

- Fridays 2nd May
- Friday 16th May
- Friday 30th May

Please keep an eye out for more news in due course on what these days will entail.

Volunteer Bank

Finally.....we can't run events without hands on help! If you are able to assist in either the run up to the events – sorting out donations etc. – setting up on the day, or participating during the events we would love to hear from you. In order to plan events safely and efficiently we need to be assured that we will have sufficient volunteers on the day: therefore we would like to have a bank of volunteers - folk who would like to help in some way (not necessarily public facing) and whom we could check with for availability prior to planning any event. This would have NO commitment or pressure to assist and we will still recruit other volunteers not on the bank, but knowing that we have minimum numbers will greatly help when planning and significantly reduce our stress in the run up to events. If you would like to be on the bank - and again this doesn't mean you have to commit - please be in touch.

General Information

Friends of Drakies Primary School - Private Facebook Page

This is the Parent Council's main means of sharing information with parents and carers, including updates for events, current lost property and even handy school reminders. Please request to join and answer the questions so we can verify who you are. New parents and carers to the school are especially welcome.

Please note: despite the option of sharing your email with the parent council on the Personal Info forms at the beginning of each year, we are unable to identify those emails whose children are currently attending the school - and so we have hundreds, with no name attached! We are therefore unable to send out a group email from our account (it has to come through the school office) and hence why the Facebook page is the best way of keeping up to date with our info.

Fundraising

Excitingly, the Trim Trail catalogue is sitting in the school and those at the recent parent council meeting had a chance to see some of the fun obstacles available. Hopefully we will be in a position to move forward with this project in the very near future.

On top of several larger fundraising events there are also some very simple ways in which you can support Friends of Drakies Primary School - through your shopping! If shopping online we have an account with **easyfundraising**. At the last parent council meeting we were made aware that many folk were unsure how to go about setting up easyfundraising and to maximise the amount raised.

From <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/> -

"How it works: We turn your daily shopping into everyday magic! easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra, the cost is covered by the brand. Brands pay us a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and we turn that into a donation - magic!"



The following link will take you to the specific page "Get started: how to support Drakies Primary School" :
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/drakiesprimary/?searchSessionId=fe3479d5-937e-4305-a9ae-cf42f5bbbed5f>

STIKINS®

If you are needing to label clothing or personal items for school we have also teamed up with **Stikins Name Labels** (<https://www.stikins.co.uk/>) whereby FODPS earn a huge 30% commission on each order value. Please use the unique school reference number '6127' when at the checkout or use the referral link <https://www.stikins.co.uk/?NAME-LABELS=6127>.

Uniform Bank

Drakies Primary School is very lucky to have this fantastic initiative which is good for both the environment and your wallet! Used, but good quality uniform has been donated and sorted and is FREE for anyone to collect and take home! All items (including jumpers, cardigans, t-shirts, skirts, dresses, trousers, shorts and fleeces) are normally catered for and there is usually plenty across all sizes.

There is a designated Uniform Bank area within the foyer of the school which you can access at any time (office hours) and help yourself to what you need. Items such as wellies, jackets, hats and gloves are also available to take - size dependent. There is also a lot of stock stashed away with volunteers so please contact them about stock for any particular item. The volunteers are Elaine Webster, Anna Munro and Kay-Lisa Davidson: drakiesuniformbank@gmail.com.

During the summer term there will be a range of uniform options to view and take at the ELC front door for those children due to start P1 in August. This is a great way to stock up on uniform and feel organised before the summer has even begun!

Please don't be shy to use the bank – it's available to everyone!

If your children have had a growth spurt and now you have any uniform to donate, you can contact the ladies on the above email.

Lost Property

Elaine and Anna are also running the never ending lost property and will regularly collect any gathered items and highlight this on the Friends of Drakies Primary School Facebook page. It will be held for a set period of time after which any unclaimed items will either go to the Uniform Bank or be donated to charity where possible.

To avoid this happening as much as possible however, please label everything, using biro, Sharpie, name stickers, stamps or other means. The amount of lost property can be colossal and it can be very frustrating for you and your child to be missing items.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday.

Eilidh Mackay
FODPS Chairperson

Vice Chairperson – Rhona Brindle
Secretary – Eilidh Mackinnon
Treasurer – Chrissi Browne

