



# Friends News

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday 5th Oct - 19:30:**  
**Friends Committee Meeting**  
*Upstairs Meeting Room*

**Wednesday 19th Oct - 19:30:**  
**Friends 2016 AGM**  
*Upstairs Meeting Room*

**Friday 21st Oct - 15:15:**  
**Cake Sale**  
*Downstairs School Hall*

**Saturday 3rd Dec from 12:00:**  
**Christmas Fair**  
*Cannon Lane Primary School*

**Friday 9th Dec from 15:30:**  
**Christmas Discos**  
*Downstairs School Hall*

## 2015/16 Fundraising Achievements

We are delighted to announce that, thanks to your incredible generosity, the Friends had another fantastic year.

The cake sales continue to be very popular, raising nearly £2,500 profit last year. While the Christmas Fair & Discos always prove to be incredibly successful, generating over £10,500 (almost £6,500 profit).

The Summer Circus & Mini Fair, generated over £11,000, adding over £7,000 profit to Friends' funds. Many of you will be pleased to know that our full scale fair will return again in the summer!

We're planning new & exciting events for the coming year, and hope to raise even more funds to provide additional support to the school and help further our children's education.



## Chair's Welcome

On behalf of the Friends of Cannon Lane Committee, I would like to welcome you all to the 2016/17 autumn term, and hope your children are settling into their new classes.

I would like to extend a special welcome to those parents & carers starting at Cannon Lane for the first time this year. The Friends are Cannon Lane's Parent & Teacher Association, of which you are all automatically members.

We are excited to bring you our new-look newsletter, which we will send out periodically throughout the year. The aim of our newsletter is to keep you up to date with the latest news, information and events directly from the Friends.

In this, our first issue, you will find information on the amount of funds raised from events last year; we generated a net income of over £25,000, raising over £16,500 in profits. You will also learn about the plans the school has for the money raised by the Friends, find out about upcoming events, meet our committee officers and learn more about how you can get further involved. We are also delighted to introduce a new way of keeping in contact with the Friends, so make sure you don't miss out on important information & updates by signing up to Classlist (see page 3).

We are looking forward to another exciting year ahead, and I would like to thank you all in advance for the fabulous support I know you will give the school this year.

Best wishes,

Gawain Cox  
 Chair of Friends

## Money For Nothing?

Are you interested in supporting our school but worried about time commitments, childcare and how exactly to get started? If you or your partner work, your employer may be able to help.

A number of organisations offer a range of support options for charities such as Cannon Lane Primary school.

Matched Funding is the most common; this is where an employer commits to match the funds raised at a particular event, allowing us to potentially double our fundraising. For example, one of our parents works for Thames Water, she has discovered that if we can identify another 2 parents with the same employer, funds raised at events like cake sales and summer & Christmas fairs can be matched by Thames Water.

If your organisation doesn't offer matched funding, there are other ways they could get involved, from event sponsorship to providing volunteers to help out. Did you know some employers even offer paid time off for their staff if they volunteer during their normal working hours?

So, what does this mean for you? As a parent or carer at our school we would urge you to ask if you or your partner's employer can provide any support for Cannon Lane Primary School. If you feel they can, please contact a member of the Friends Committee and we'd be delighted to explore this with you further.

*Our thanks to Neeti Bindra for providing the basis of this article.*

## Other Fundraising Ideas

If you don't have an employer who is able to support us, or you don't have the time to commit to volunteering with the Friends, you could still provide vital fundraising support, with very little effort.

**EasyFundraising:** You can raise funds for the school, just by shopping online as normal. It doesn't cost you a penny extra and you can make a big difference on everything from groceries to getaways. If you're familiar with Quidco, you'll know exactly how this works. For more info & to join, visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk).

**Greetings Cards:** All the children will be participating in a greeting card design project in class. It aims to encourage pupils' creativity and design skills whilst also raising funds for our school. Your child's unique design will be brought home with an order form very soon, and the cards will then be professionally printed. We do hope you are able to support this project!

**Gift Aid:** The Friends are in the process of registering for Gift Aid, which allows us to claim back 25p for every £1 donated! This may mean we ask for a few extra details when donating over £20, but we will soon provide useful guides outlining what's required from you for us to reclaim this additional source of funding.

**Do you have other fundraising ideas?**  
Let us know at [friends@cannonlane.org](mailto:friends@cannonlane.org)

## Fundraising Targets

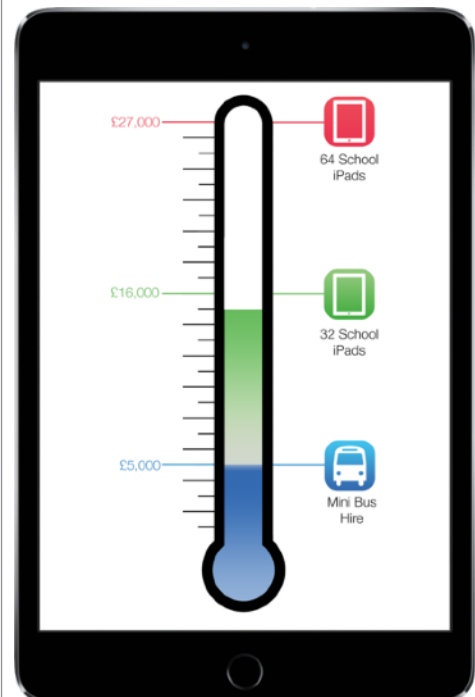
The school has outlined its desire for the Friends to support it this year by providing a number of iPad tablets, suitable software and secure trolleys to charge and store them.

Each set of 32 iPads will provide an iPad for each child in one class, and these will be circulated throughout the school so that all the children will be able to benefit from them.



In addition, the Friends have also committed to contributing a £5,000 donation to fund additional transport, which will provide all students with more opportunities to attend external extra curricular activities.

**Please see our totaliser below to see how much of our target we've raised so far.**



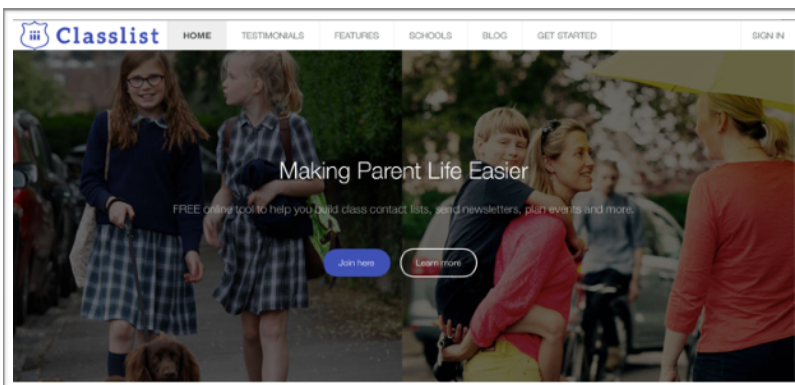
You can keep also track of our fundraising progress via our website.

## Introducing Classlist

New for the 2016/17 academic year, we are delighted to introduce our official channel for communicating with parents. Classlist is a secure online communication platform which will allow us to reach all parents with PTA related messages, news, events and information in a much more consistent way.

Classlist is designed to make life easier for you when it comes to all things school related. Connect with other parents, organise events or even sell off that bike languishing unused in the shed.

Your class reps automatically become moderators for your class and will be able to arrange exclusive class events without the need for additional tools such as text messaging, emailing and WhatsApp. All this while you remain in control of what information you share. You can even join additional special interest groups, such as the SweetArts Baking team, Lift Sharing and Walking Bus.



To find out more and to join, visit [friends.cannonlane.org/join](http://friends.cannonlane.org/join).

As an added incentive, everyone signing up before 31st October will be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win £50!

## Get Involved

The Friends of Cannon Lane are always looking for additional support, whether you would like to join the committee, or volunteer at an event, we have a variety of roles suited to all abilities and levels of time commitment.

At our AGM, on 19th October, we will be electing our committee for the forthcoming year. Our current secretary, Bhavini Vyas, has indicated her desire to stand down after many years loyal service and so we're particularly looking for someone to join us in this role. The secretary is usually required for a couple of hours per term to attend committee meetings and the role is suited to anyone who is good at taking notes and producing meeting reports, however the Friends are also able to provide accredited training opportunities.

We're also looking for organised individuals to lead event sub-committees. If you'd like to develop your project management skills, receive training opportunities and perhaps lead our next big event, do get in touch. All enquiries to [friends@cannonlane.org](mailto:friends@cannonlane.org).

## Meet the Officers



**Gawain Cox**  
*Chair*



**Mira Lad**  
*Acting Vice Chair*



**Bhavini Vyas**  
*Secretary*



**Maria Sanchez**  
*Treasurer*

The Officers are supported by an active committee of parents, teachers & trustees who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the association. All members are eligible for nomination to stand on the general committee or as an officer. If you wish to propose yourself, see the 'Get Involved' section to the left.