

# Stanhope Barrington C of E Primary School



Westcroft

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Dear Parent/Carer

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

## Re: The Fellowship and Friends of Stanhope Barrington

Due to the Covid pandemic, our fundraising team (The Friends of Stanhope Barrington) and our PTA (The Fellowship of Stanhope Barrington) have not been active and I am conscious that we have a number of new parents who have joined the school over the last two years who may not even know the groups exist.

I am therefore writing to invite everyone to an open meeting at **3.30pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022** in the school hall. At the meeting I will be explaining all about The Fellowship and The Friends; how the two groups operate and differ and how you can help to raise funds and support our school. This meeting will also constitute the AGM which will not take very long.

### The Fellowship of Stanhope Barrington

This is the name of what is commonly called the PTA (Parent & Teachers Association). This is the group which holds an annual AGM (Annual General Meeting) and tends to deal with the official business of the PTA. In March 2020, we signed up to a national PTA organisation called Parent Kind to formalise and make our PTA more professional and streamlined. Every single parent and member of staff is automatically a member of The Fellowship of Stanhope Barrington and everyone is welcome to attend the AGM. At the current time we only have three official members and would love more parents to get involved. The time commitment is literally one meeting per year.

### The Friends of Stanhope Barrington

This is the fundraising arm of the PTA. It is an informal group of parents who work tirelessly to raise money for the school. Money raised initially pays for a £7.50 subsidy for every child, every term for an educational visit or event in school. This is to try to alleviate the financial burden on parents paying for trips and visits. In addition, the fund has also contributed to the cost of Leaver's hoodies, resources for the school library and cultural activities such as theatre, artists and musicians visiting the school. In the past, The Friends have organised Harry Potter Nights and our Summer Fair along with supporting at coffee mornings, Christmas performances and Easter Fairs.

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We normally recruit new members each September at our MacMillan Cancer Coffee Morning, but this year this was held during Covid restrictions and we were not able to physically meet with a wide range of parents. As a result, our membership of The Friends has dwindled as parents tend to leave when their Year 6 child leaves to go to secondary school and we have been unable to recruit new members from our new parents.

In addition, The Friends have been unable to hold many of our normal fundraising activities and at the current time the bank account is in desperate need of funds if we are to continue to provide the £7.50 per child per term subsidy.

The Friends tend to meet as and when necessary depending upon the organisational needs of events. Some members get involved in all activities whilst others raise money individually to contribute to the fund.

Without The Fellowship and The Friends we would be unable to offer the wide range of extra-curricular activities which we currently provide for our children. The groups are essential in raising vital funding and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to benefit from the provision on offer and is not excluded on the basis of cost.

Our next big project will be to hold our annual Summer Fair on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June and to plan ideas for events in the new academic year.

Everyone is welcome so please spare half an hour on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May to come along to the school hall and learn more about the groups or sign up to join.

We are providing free childcare from 3.30pm – 4.30pm for anyone attending the meeting. The meeting will only take 20 – 30 minutes but may take longer if there are questions and discussions. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to join either The Fellowship or The Friends then please request a form from the school office.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs D Cross*

Mrs D Cross  
Head Teacher