



## Who are the Friends of Hawkes Farm Academy?

We are fortunate at our academy to have a Parent Teacher Association that is and has been an integral part of the school community for many years. In its time, the Friends of Hawkes Farm (FOHF) has raised thousands of pounds, which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's education experience and the academy's facilities.

We work alongside the children's Rights Respecting Council, staff and parents. We are a community who join together to brainstorm functions and events. The money that is raised by us is a massive support in assisting the academy to provide our children with the resources that Hawkes Farm Academy on its own may not be able to budget for.

However, our PTA is about much more than fundraising. The Friends of Hawkes Farm Academy exists to provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the academy, working towards a common goal.

All parents and members of the school community are part of Friends of Hawkes Farm Academy because we are all members of the academy. However, it is a legal requirement that we need a few key members to form the committee. These people are expected to attend the vast majority of meetings, help to organise events and are the driving force behind the Friends of Hawkes Farm Academy.

Our committee consists of four officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We also have ordinary committee members to make up the full committee.

We hold our Annual General Meeting in September, at the start of the academy year and we meet monthly throughout the year.

## How do we spend the money we raise?

Usually, the staff and children will have a 'wish list' of items that the school would like FOHF to consider funding. It is at our Committee meetings, that the decisions on how to spend the money are agreed.

Funds raised by the Friends are intended to provide 'extras' not already provided by the academy's main income, often fun things that make learning more interesting and exciting. We always endeavour to spend our funds in ways that will benefit all our children across all areas of the school and curriculum.

Items previously funded include The Big Friendly Library, the Junior outside gym equipment, the Infant play area, SAT's BBQ and leaver's books, presents from Father Christmas for the Infant children and water bottles for the new Reception children. We also pay annually for a visiting pantomime for the children.

## How do we raise funds?

Like most PTA's, the majority of our funds are raised through the events we run. Some of our events are:

- Summer Fair
- Christmas Fair
- Quiz and Bingo Nights
- Second Hand Uniform Sales
- Secret Room for Mother's Day and Father's Day
- Children's Discos and Film Nights

So you can see there is always something going on. We always try to respond to the children's requests; it is great to see them having fun at the events or enjoying using a piece of equipment that FOHF has donated.

## How do I get involved?

There are many ways you can help and support your child through FOHF. All parents are encouraged to get involved in supporting our events, even if they only have a small amount of time available, you do not need to be a committee member to be able to be of great help to us.

Offering to help before events or at other times during the year is so valuable. It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you cannot come into school. You can help with the Friends, whether you have lots of time to offer or not in many different ways. For example, you can help us by running a stall at the Christmas or Summer Fair, or by baking a cake for a cake sale. We really couldn't achieve what we do without the behind the scenes help that we receive.

If you would like to be more involved you can volunteer to be a committee member, or you can simply support the AGM and give us your ideas for fundraising events. This is also the time to ask questions or voice your opinion.

You can always support FOHF by simply turning up to events! You can also help by letting us know if you have any contacts or skills we could use, everything is potentially valuable to us. Please contact us using the email address below.

## Get in touch

- Email us at [chair@friendsofhawkesfarm.co.uk](mailto:chair@friendsofhawkesfarm.co.uk)
- Ask to join our closed Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofhawkesfarm/>
- Please speak to any of the committee who will welcome any ideas and suggestions you may have.  
Chair – Jenny Bamford  
Vice Chair – Samantha Rapley  
Secretary – Julia Kent  
Joint Treasurers - Natalie Ridley and Kim Smith  
Committee members - Caroline Goodall, Natasha Elsbury, Mel Greenaway, Katrina Hathaway, Helen Kidman, Sam Mitchell and Crystal Venn