

KSF AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

CHAIR - LEANNE WOODWARD (GROSE)

Welcome to our first Kea School Friend's newsletter of the school year. My name is Leanne and I'm the Chair of Kea School Friends (KSF) the charity set up to support Kea School.

Unfortunately due to covid restrictions we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel a number of events. Last year we were unable to hold our summer fair, we missed a number of tuckshops, the end of year disco and others. We have also had to postpone our AGM recently due to restrictions on numbers, however we are looking at ways to hold it soon and will keep you updated.

The aim of KSF is to support the school with the little extras which support the curriculum—such as school visits, reading books, class resources etc, there is some more detail on page 2.

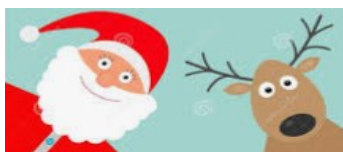
My hope for Kea School Friends is that we engage with parents and ensure we continue to have a fun environment where parents and carers have the opportunity to contribute to Kea School Friend activities without the commitment of becoming a member or going to meetings. Last year this worked really well with the new format we used for class sponsored tuck shops, and as soon as it's safe again we will begin to hold these again each month.

As with so many things currently, our programme is going to have to look a little different, for now at least. It is with great sadness that we have had to cancel the Christmas Fayre and end of term disco.

Personalised Christmas Cards and Gifts

Thank you to all the children that have so far created and handed in such wonderful pictures for our personalised Christmas Card Project, templates must be handed in to school no later than Friday 23rd October. Over half-term the templates will be sent to the printers who will return an individual order form for each design.

You will be able to order as much or little as you wish, and everything will be delivered in plenty of time for Christmas post dates.



However, the KSF committee are planning some events which can take place whilst ensuring we follow current restrictions. Outline details for some of these are below and further information will be emailed out as and when required—of course some events will be subject to lockdown restrictions at the time.

KSF work closely with Mrs Hunkin and the school staff to ascertain their needs and see where and how we can support our wonderful school. Over the past few years KSF have worked hard to build good relationships within our community, working together with Kea Pre School, Kea Church and the local Scout groups, and we hope to continue to work together in the future.

I will be working hard to lead a dedicated team of volunteers, strengthening our Charity, raising funds to support our school and in turn, benefit our children and their learning experience at Kea.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support to Kea School Friends and to say that we are looking forward to another great year of events!

Leanne Woodward (Grose)

Wrapping Room

The last few years we have invited the children in to our KSF wrapping room during December—this is such a magical event and we know how much the children love coming along. With current covid-19 restrictions we are unable to hold our usual wrapping room this year.

KSF are working hard behind the scenes to offer an alternative wrapping room experience for 2020 and more details will be sent home via the school office when available.

Wear what you like to school Day - Friday 4th December

KSF are hoping to, with the support of the school, hold an Online Christmas Raffle.

We are inviting children to wear what they like to school on Friday 4th December, in return for a gift to use for the Christmas Raffle. KSF will be making up some Christmas themed hampers with the donations, which you can then win! Donation ideas include boxes of chocolates, small toys, wine or any other festive gifts. Items can be suitable for children or adults, must be new and be suitable for a Christmas themed hamper. Items need to be brought into school on the 4th December and can be left in the drop off bags outside classrooms or given to class teachers. If you are a business or would like to donate something more substantial please speak to a class rep or drop us an email to discuss how your business could sponsor a hamper.

We need your help, and it's not going to cost you a penny!

With everything going on at the moment we need your support more than ever. A really simple way to raise money for Kea School Friends without doing any work is by using Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising. Both work by donating a percentage of what you have spent when you shop online, to Kea School Friends.

Easyfundraising is an app you can download and it's FREE! Just search for "easyfundraising" in the App Store on IOS or the Google Play Store on Android. Once you have the App, simply open it and search for Kea School Friends as your chosen cause. When you shop, find the retailer you want to shop with, then shop as normal. When you check out, the retailer give us a free donation—at no extra cost to you! You can also use the App to keep track of how much you have raised.

Amazon Smile is very similar in that every time you shop through Amazon by the App, on a computer or laptop they donate a percentage to Kea School Friends. To set this up just go onto the main menu on your Amazon account and under the settings will be a sub header of amazon Smile. Simply follow the instructions and search for Kea School Friends to set up donations. If you need any help just let us know!

How KSF works

The committee usually meet every 6 weeks, but it really does depend on what events are planned. We often meet in the evenings at the pub and it's very sociable. We sometimes have sub-committee meetings to undertake different jobs for events and these are either held during school hours or the evenings. Not everyone attends all meetings, we all have busy lives so not everyone makes every meeting which is absolutely fine. With the current restrictions in place we are having to think outside the box!

How can I get involved? Speak to one of the KSF members—usually a good start is a chat with your class rep in the playground or contact us via our email: keaschoolfriends@outlook.com If you have an idea for a new event or an improvement to a current event please do drop us an email. If you are not sure who your class rep is your class Facebook page is a good place to enquire as most classes have these and KSF are members.

How do you decide what to spend the money on? The school put requests to the committee and we vote on what to spend our money on. We usually vote online and sometimes during our meetings— it depends when we get the request through. The school complete a form, which includes details what they want and some quotes, these go via Mrs Hunkin. When the committee are deciding whether to support a request we are told how much money we have in the bank, we also have a list of items we expect to be asked for in order to support the school throughout the year. We have also agreed to support all requests for transports costs, this supports all the children with school trips and other activities.