

Welcome to Our School



THE FRIENDS OF RODMARTON SCHOOL

Charity Number: 1038445

Parentkind
Member Association

Welcome to Rodmarton School

This information has been put together by The Friends of Rodmarton School especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved from the start?! This booklet provides you with information about The Friends of Rodmarton School and lets you know how you can join in.

Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have The Friends of Rodmarton School which is an integral part of the school community. Over the last 25 years we have raised thousands of pounds, which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. The Friends of Rodmarton School 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 school, working towards a common goal. It's fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers.

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available.

All families are automatically members of the The Friends of Rodmarton School when their child joins our school.

Here are six reasons why it's great to get involved:

1. For the children

Being active in The Friends not only improves your child's school, but makes you an excellent role model. Research confirms what we've always known: when children see us involved in their school and learning, it encourages them to do their best.

2. It builds trust

Becoming part of The Friends is a great way to know other parents and teachers while gaining insight into the workings of the school. With parents and teachers striving towards the same goals, the parents group is instrumental in making a real difference in the school life of all children.

3. It raises welcome funds

Whether it's installing heating in the loos, taking the children to the Pantomime or paying for new IT equipment, the funds raised from your activities impact massively on the opportunities and experiences of all the children at the school.

4. It gives you a voice

Many PTAs already act as a consultative group for the school leaders and governors. So whether it's deciding on where The Friends funds are spent or getting parent views on wraparound care, you can make sure parents have a voice in how your school operates.

5. It forges connections beyond the school gates

PTAs are brilliant for building relationships with the local community from events to sponsorships from local businesses, and mentions in the local press.

6. It's good for you!

Every parent has plenty to offer The Friends: whether it's being on the committee, helping out at events, procuring raffle prizes, painting a fence or writing a grant application, your talents will be put to good use! As well as being enjoyable and satisfying, you can build your confidence and learn new skills too.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee currently consists of a Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

The Committee meets on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events.

The Committee also communicates what the association is planning via the weekly newsletter and at Parent Forums which is the perfect platform to share ideas and get involved.

Volunteers

We welcome any help from parents, grandparents, extended family, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping us. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at an event, wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets (just a few examples) would be invaluable. If you would like to join us please speak to a committee member, come along to our next meeting or email us at bryhergb@hotmail.com. There is also a reply slip at the back of this booklet you can complete and return to the committee or the school office.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in September and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members.

Support from Parentkind

The Friends of Rodmarton School is a member of Parentkind, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance to over 13,500 parent associations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Membership includes comprehensive insurance cover by Zurich Insurance plc for all our association run events and gives access to support and advice on running the association plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips

Parentkind also provide resources for Parents, if you would like to sign up to their Parent e-Bulletin please visit <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Signup>

How we raise money

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

Quiz & Curry Night

Race Night

Big Summer Lunch

Cake Sales

Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes and auction lots or offers of services and skills.

We are signed up to numerous schemes that offer cashback programmes, more details are at the end of this booklet.

How we spend the money we raise

The committee of The Friends of Rodmarton School is responsible for deciding how our PTA funds are spent. Usually the School Leadership Team provides a 'wish list' of items that the school would like us to consider funding.

We also invite input from parents too, so if you have an idea of something that would benefit all the students in the school, please do share it with the Committee. We can discuss it at a meeting and feedback.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Funds are not generally spent on major changes to the fabric of the school building as this is the responsibility of the local authority. Our Constitution commits The Friends to spending money on things that will benefit the children directly.

These are some of the items we have funded in this last year for the school:

IT Equipment	Sensory Room/Nurture Space	Refurbishment of the loos
Trips to the Pantomime, National Space Centre, Cotswold Park Farm and Cattle Country		

How we keep you up to date

We have a section in the school's weekly newsletter which is emailed to all parents and carers each week. This includes information on upcoming events and dates plus as well as details of the help we are need for larger events. Following an event, we always write to let you know how much was raised and, when we reach our target, we tell you what the money will be spent on.

On the school noticeboard, in the reception area of the school office, you'll find all our posters and news.

There is a general parents WhatsApp group through which we send event reminders, please let a committee know if you would like to join.

The Committee

Chair	Bryher Grimes	07785 542185	bryhergb@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Penny Norrie	07890 023594	penny@mokefinewines.com

We look forward to welcoming you to our school!

Cashback Programmes

AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.

You can nominate The Friends of Rodmarton School to be your charity of choice by following these simple steps:

1. Visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>
2. Go to **My Account** and click **Change Your Charity**
3. In the box entitled **Or Pick Your Own Charity**, enter **The Friends of Rodmarton School** and search
4. **Select The Friends of Rodmarton School** as your charity
5. **Always** start your shopping at **Smile.Amazon.co.uk** as this recognises your chosen charity

Start each shopping session at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (exc VAT, returns and shipping fees) to The Friends.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

From everyday shopping to using easyfundraising to switch your car and home insurance, buy a new TV, take a new mobile contract or switch your gas supplier, you can raise over £100 for Rodmarton School! Aviva will donate up to £30, More Than up to £22.50, Vodafone and EE up to £35, SKY up to £52.50 and British Gas up to £25, to name just a few.

1. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and enter **Rodmarton School, Cirencester** in the search box.
2. Create your account and start shopping via easyfundraising.org.uk

GiveAsYouLive.com

Just search *give as you live* in the App store, download the app to your phone, select **Rodmarton School** as your good cause, create your account, and go shopping!

OR

1. Visit www.giveasyoulive.com
2. Enter **The Friends of Rodmarton School** as the cause you want to support
3. Create your account and start shopping via giveasyoulive.com

The Barn Theatre, Cirencester - Cashback Scheme

“One of my favourite regional theatres.” – **Dominic Cavendish, The Telegraph.**

“The best theatre in the Cotswolds.” – **Wilts & Glos Standard**

Support your local theatre and earn money for the school at the same time!

Here's how The Barn Theatre's Cashback scheme works:

Up to 10 tickets = 5% donation

10-20 tickets = 10% donation

20-30 tickets = 15% donation

More than 30 tickets = 20% donation

The scheme applies to all matinees and *Built by Barn* evening performances on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays only.

Process:

1. Let Penny Norrie (penny@mokefinewines.com) know the date and number of tickets required. Please note, we are unable to guarantee exact seats.
2. Pay ***The Friends of Rodmarton School*** by bank transfer (details below) for the total cost of your tickets
3. You will receive your tickets via email when the Penny receives the confirmation of receipt from The Barn Theatre
4. 30 days later The Friends will receive the donation into our account.

Bank details:

The Friends of Rodmarton School

Sort code: 30-92-06

Ac number: 01666558

20% cashback from Easy2name labels!

The school asks that all items of clothing, and other possessions, that come into school with your child are named. Order your name labels at www.easy2name.com and The Friends of Rodmarton School will receive 20% cashback from your order.

To order your labels just visit www.easy2name.com, choose what you want to order and, when you get to your basket, scroll down to choose Friends of Rodmarton School as the fundraising group you would like to support (there are lots of groups so there's a lot of scrolling!) and then just complete your order as normal.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
THE FRIENDS OF RODMARTON SCHOOL**