



Raglan Upcoming Dates

- Book Fair – Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th November
- Flu Immunisation – Wednesday 29th November
- Senior Citizens Christmas Party – Thursday 7th December
- KS2 Christmas Carole Concert – Friday 8th December
- Christmas Jumper/Own Clothes Day – Friday 8th December

Language of the Week

Language	Hello	Good Morning	Good Afternoon
Scottish Gaelic	Halò	Madainn mhath	Feasgar math

<https://learngaelic.scot/dictionary/index.jsp?abairt=hello&slang=both&wholeword=false>

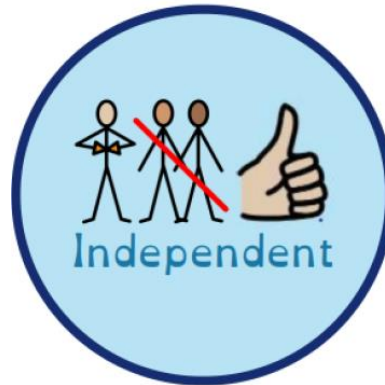


The Makaton Sign of the Week is 'new'

Double click on the link below for a video of 'new'



27th Nov new.MOV



Character Virtue of the Week

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank our FOR for the huge amount of work they do for us in our school. The money they raise through the events they organise for us provide a critical financial lifeline. This week I wish to share with you in detail how important the FOR are for us.

Focus on the Friends of Raglan (FoR)

This week I would like to put the spotlight on our schools' PTA, The Friends of Raglan or FOR. It exists to serve your children and enhance their experience of school life as well as building a sense of community. They are currently raising funds to upgrade both playgrounds, as well as providing vital funds for some other fun and educational items. Today I'd like to share the ways that you can support FOR's fundraising endeavours with minimal input including some of the less obvious that you may not have heard of including fundraising while you shop online (easyfundraising) and doubling fundraising (matchfunding), both of which are expanded on below.

Most importantly, FOR is a group of parent volunteers. They rely on help and support from parents to organise and run events. Please don't hesitate to contact them if you have any ideas for events or would like to be involved.



THE FUNCTION OF FOR & CHARITABLE PURPOSE

Whilst the name may not immediately suggest it, its function is that of the PTA. They help to raise funds for our school by organising events for children and parents of the school, such as fairs, discos, quiz nights, treasure hunts and Christmas events. Their formal charitable purpose is "To advance the education of the Pupils of the School by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the School (not normally provided by the Local Authority)". That suggests that it has been to raise funds for those extra 'nice-to-haves' not covered by the School's budget. However the reality today in the current climate of government funding cuts, is that the funds it raises are integral and essential to provide the children with the best learning facilities and overall school experience.

CURRENT FUNDRAISING TARGET & OBJECTIVES

Our current aspiration and ambition, is to raise enough funds to overhaul all of the school play areas (both KS1 and KS2 playgrounds) to bring them in line with modern expectations of what school outdoor play and sport facilities should offer. I'm sure most of you are familiar with the fundamental role outdoor play has in children's development. This role cannot be overstated and stimulating play equipment is not a 'nice-to-have' - it is an ESSENTIAL element of your child's learning and development. Sadly, our current play areas, whilst still being functional, could be so much better in terms of variety and stimulating outdoor play experience. Unfortunately, our school's budget just will not cover the cost of the works required to do this at Raglan to the standard I, and the other teaching staff want for your children. I have on several occasions over the past year pointed out the depressing situation of school budgets not increasing with inflation. To remind you once more, since 2010 there has been a 9% rise in the amount we receive for each of your children. Inflation stands at 40% since 2010 according to the Bank of England. Had we received an increase per child in line with inflation since 2010 we would not have had to make savings by reducing teaching assistants and teacher numbers across our school. Clearly the impact of this is huge across every aspect of school. In addition to this we would be able to afford upgrades to playgrounds; and to purchase more resources – including technology.

When I took up post at the beginning of last September, I asked FOR to accept a two year fundraising target of £35,000. An ambitious but achievable target, and I am pleased that with your support, they have met the first year's target. Those funds, together with funds already raised means that we are ready to order new KS1 playground equipment. We are already working on proposals for the KS2 playground, which you will appreciate is a far more involved, and therefore significantly more expensive, project. It is therefore important that we all get behind FOR and their efforts, to ensure that we raise as much as possible and can start work there too. Many of you take the time to chat to me in the mornings and afternoons which I enjoy. I know you all want to do the very best for your children and so do we. My hope is that by all of us offering our support to FOR we will be able to deliver the new play areas sooner. I've attached a visual of the new play equipment we are planning to install during the Easter holiday next year. I hope you will agree it will provide a massive upgrade to the current play experience for the KS1 children and those attending breakfast club and after-school Safari club.

FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS

In the 2022/2023 school year FOR raised funds totalling £18,248.94. In addition, they also made their traditional contributions towards the annual school Christmas parties and Christmas class gifts (£45 per class) and the Year 6 leavers party (£300). They also met 50% of the cost of the African drumming sessions a few weeks ago, allowing me to book workshops where every child was able to participate with their own drum and drumming experience, rather than just watch and listen. They contributed £75 worth of books to the library on diversity and inclusion last year and made a donation to the gardening club when their Belfast sink planters were stolen.

This may not sound like a lot, but as the main focus is on the playground upgrades, the majority of the money raised is being saved towards that. In the previous academic year (2021/2022) FOR funded 50 new iPads in the school and an interactive whiteboard, at a cost of over £4,000. The sooner the funds are raised for the playgrounds, the sooner FOR can go back to helping with those sorts of things.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

I appreciate that parents have pressures on their time, but there are more ways to get involved than you may be aware. Some of these are set out below and I would encourage you to investigate whether you can help through any of these.

There are many ways you can help.

Online Shopping!

- **Easyfundraising:** How many of you shop online or will shop online for Christmas gifts? Do you have your supermarket shopping delivered?

If the answer is yes, then please consider visiting the retailer website through Easyfundraising. Doing so will contribute small amounts of funds back to the School with each order, which all add up. There is no cost to you, other than the small amount of extra time to go through Easyfundraising, rather than directly to the retailer website. If many of you do so, then it has the possibility to add up to significant sums. There are over 7,000 retailers signed up to give back to charities, so please do have a look using the link below.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/foraglan>

Sign up now, and make your first purchase through Easyfundraising, and they will make a bonus £5 donation! Some retailers may require ordering through their webpage, rather than the app, but the small amount of extra time will raise valuable funds for the School.

Your Time

- **Volunteering:** FOR are always looking for volunteers to help with organising events or on the day and afterwards. Any time you can spare - even an hour or two helping to set up or looking after a stall at the Christmas Fair for example – is always appreciated and it all contributes to achieving the fundraising goal.

There is a schedule of upcoming events for the rest of the year – if you would like to be on the list of FOR volunteers or offer help for a specific event please get in touch with FOR - contact details are below. It is so helpful for FOR to know how many volunteers will be available for events as far in advance as possible.

- **Researching grant funding:** There are a lot of grants out there that may be applicable to our school and the provision of new play areas. We have been lucky to be able to raise the funds for the KS1 playground upgrades, purely through FOR organised events. However, grants could make a substantial contribution and will significantly accelerate the timetable for delivering KS2 upgrade works. Researching them is time-consuming on top of organising and managing the FOR event calendar. Anyone who may have a few spare hours help with the research should contact FOR to find out how they can help with this. If anyone has any experience of drafting grant applications or pitch documents, FOR is keen to hear from you too so please do get in touch.

Your Generosity

- **Attending FOR's events:** FOR strive to make events affordable with a focus on building the wider school community. Many of them are directly aimed at providing socialising and fun opportunities for the children outside of school hours, e.g. the Board Games Café and Family Bingo nights. Please do come along when you can. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Christmas Fair.
- **Donations:** There are several organised 'Donation Days' throughout the year e.g. Tombola prizes – please support these by giving whatever you can. Look out for details in upcoming school emails and WhatsApp groups. Any one-off monetary donations or donations of raffle prizes would also be welcome and gratefully received. Please contact FOR to find out how you can do this.
- **Standing orders:** A simple and straightforward way to help with minimum effort is to donate money directly via a monthly standing order or direct debit. If you wish to do so, the Friends of Raglan account details are:

Metro Bank

Account Name: Friends of Raglan

Sort Code: 23-05-80

Account No.: 27439268

- **Payroll giving:** a tax-efficient way to help is via Payroll Giving which donates off your gross salary (salary sacrifice) and goes directly to FOR. This applies to parents who are employed and paid via PAYE and where your employer participates in a payroll giving scheme. If you are unsure, please speak with your Payroll or HR team who will be able confirm and provide more details.

Your Business/Workplace

- **Match-funding:** Some organisations and employers have match-funding programmes. Match-funding is where employers will match pound for pound the funds raised by employees for chosen charities. You do not need to organise or run an event, but probably need to have some involvement – perhaps a stint on a stall or game. Some will have capped contributions once per year, some will offer multiple match-funds. Please investigate whether your workplace offers a match-funding programme, and contact FOR who are able to work with you to unlock valuable matched-funds.
- **Donations:** Can your business or employer help with monetary donations or donations of goods (e.g. for raffle prizes) or sponsorship? This could be an opportunity for publicity at FOR events or on FOR communications. Some businesses make regular/annual donations to charities nominated by staff. Please consider nominating FOR if your employer is one of these.
- **Limited company charitable donations:** Limited companies get tax relief for charitable donations. FOR is a registered charity listed on the Charities Commission website. If you have your own limited company, it could be tax efficient for you to donate to FOR. It can also help with B-Corp status! (You could also ask any friends or relatives who you know own limited companies to help in this way.).

Your Contacts

- **Local businesses:** Do you know a local business you could approach for donations – vouchers, products, goods or sponsorship? Please do contact FOR if you do!
- **Individuals:** Do you know a famous local celebrity who could offer their time to make appearances at one of our events?

Your Skills

- **Your work/personal skills:** This is not to be underestimated. In particular, for the KS2 project we are at present looking for someone to help with a vision for the garden area between the car park and the gym. If you have any experience that could help with this, please come forward! Your work skills may help us to save costs on hiring professionals e.g. drafting skills to draw up plans for the playground refurbishment. Qualified first aiders are always required to be present at FOR events so anyone in the medical professions could help with this so they don't have to always rely on the same person. Please let FOR know if you think you would be able to help in any way.
- **Hidden talents:** Do you have a secret (or not so secret) talent that could raise money at FOR events? E.g. are you good at children's face painting, making balloon animals, an amateur magician? Please let FOR know if you think you can help.

Your Ideas

- **Fundraising ideas:** Do you have an idea for a fundraising initiative or event? It could be something you've come across at another school or charity. Please let FOR know.

Lastly, FOR would like to thank all parents and pupils for all the support received so far this year.

Contact FOR: Email: for.ptabromley@gmail.com

WhatsApp: please message your class WhatsApp group FOR representative.

FoR Sponsored Key Stage 1 Playground Update

I would like to thank the FOR for their amazing fundraising efforts. This has placed us in a position to look at Easter holidays as a potential date to upgrade the KS1 playground.

I have attached to the newsletter the plan of the upgrade and costings. As this is a significant sum of money, I feel that it is important for parents to see what they have helped raise the funding for and comment if they feel they wish to.

The FOR and school have been diligent in their research and tendering process. We are trying to ensure best value.

If parents and carers do have any comments or questions can you please email them in to school for my attention by Friday 1st December.

Again, a massive thank you to you all for supporting this. We are now looking to raise money for a KS2 Playground upgrade!

Aspire to Inspire – Thank you Once Again Didi!

On Wednesday Mr Bowen – Wright (Didi) returned to deliver again another wonderfully inspirational parent and carer's assembly. Didi left the children last year with his mantra in life 'aspire to inspire.' This year he shared with the children the obstacles and challenges that he has overcome in the past year in his professional world. Didi also explained to the children that time does not stand still for anyone, and that we continually have to overcome failures and persevere in order to achieve success. It was fantastic that Didi related our character virtues to his experiences over the last year which really resonated with the children. We look forward to more parents and carers returning in the Spring Term explaining to the children as Didi has done – that time doesn't stand still, that you face challenges all of the time, and that if you fail the first few times you keep going and build the resilience to achieve. A massive thank you Didi and we look forward to seeing you next year!



I am in the process of booking in parents and carers that spoke last year in assembly. I do hope that more parents will want to come share their life, experiences, challenges and successes to the children. You are the greatest of inspirations because you are real to our children!

Mini Explorers Indoor Playgroup – opening on 6th December.



Mini Explorers Indoor Playgroup

Opening Wednesday 6th December

We are delighted to announce that we are expanding again and will now be running indoor sessions at Bromley Common Methodist Church, Bloomfield Road, Bromley BR2 9RZ. 10am – 11.15am

£5 per child, siblings £3 cash or card payments
Childminder discount – £10 for 4 children (extras £3)

Our sessions will include:

- Role play area
- Dress up
- Small world
- Art & crafts
- Baby mat & sensory toys
- Story corner
- Construction area
- Tuff trays

Tea/Coffee 50p
free if you bring
a reusable cup

Please come to the book fair. It will be in the link corridor on **Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th November.**

Please enter the school via the doors on the KS1 playground from 3.30pm.



Family Assembly - Sir David Attenborough Meets Golden Eagles

Last week Leopards delivered a family assembly that would have made the whole Monty Python team incredibly proud. This week, Golden Eagles delivered a richness and depth of learning that would have made Sir David Attenborough smile with inspiration!

It was an absolute privilege to listen to and watch Golden Eagles discuss habitats and biomes around the globe and emphasise the perilous and precarious position they find themselves in. There were many highlights, but the explanation behind batteries and circuits, and the link to the environment was excellent. SO too was the finale – a poetry recital! Sensational.

Congratulations Golden Eagles, Mr Farmer and Miss Brotherton



Cross Country

On Saturday morning, children from Year 5 and 6 attended the Crystal Palace cross country event at Crystal Palace Park. Despite the rainy, miserable conditions, the children all arrived in excellent spirit ready to take on the 1.8km course.

All children managed to finish the event with some absolutely fantastic places being earned. While it was not enough to see us earn any silverware, I could not be prouder of the cheerfulness and enthusiasm shown by all the children and just how well they represented our school at this event.

My thanks also to Miss Donnelly and Mr De Freitas for donating their time early on Saturday morning to make this event a success. A big thank you also to the parents and carers who supported the children on Saturday morning and braved the weather!

I look forward to taking a group of Year 3 and 4 children to the event in the New Year.

Mr Boorman
Year 4 teacher and PE lead



The Big Ambition



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.

Scan the QR code to take part



CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition



Children of Raglan - please use this link below to have your say about what is important to you.

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

Take part now to make sure that your point of view is reflected in decisions taken.

This survey is for all children aged 0-18.

Parents, carers / other adults can complete on behalf of children who are under 6 or for children who need extra assistance.

The Big Raglan Walk to School - Tuesday mornings at 8.35am




Join the 'Big Raglan Walk to School'



Support our **Eco Council** and **Junior Travel Ambassadors** to promote more environmentally friendly, sustainable and healthy ways to travel to school.

Join the **Big Raglan Walk to School** at any point along the route.

Starting point is here  by the **Cowper Road Whitehall Rec** exit at **8.35am**. The route will walk down **Walpole Road** towards **Chatterton Road** post office (at approx **8.40am**), then along **Chatterton Road** to cross by the lollipop lady on **Southlands Road**.

We will reach the **Raglan entrance at Jaffrey Road**  at approx **8.45am**.

Every Tuesday
at **8.35am**



For those families who live further away from school and need to drive, why not park your car and meet up with the **Big Raglan Walk to School** for the final part of your journey!



Raring2go! Bromley

Please use this link for the winter edition of Raring2Go! Bromley. It covers events and things to do for families in December, January and February. [CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)

Safeguarding

Keeping your children safe is our priority. A couple of things to note:

Please make sure that if you drop off your child late in the morning and the staff are not out in the playground that you bring your child around to the Raglan Road entrance and sign them in so that we know that they are on site. Please don't leave your child in the playground. We also order school dinners on a daily basis so it is important that we know your child's lunch choice as early as possible.

Please ensure that the teacher can see you at the end of the day when they are dismissing their class. A teacher has to make sure that they can see an adult with parental responsibility before they release a child into the playground.



If you are buying a Christmas tree this year please consider going to Beck Evans Farm. If you take the flyer along (attached to this email) and write our school details on the back they will donate £5 to us for every Christmas tree bought by families of Raglan.



We are really pleased that we managed to raise £790 for the poppy appeal. Thanks to all of you that supported this cause.

Christmas clear out

As Christmas is swiftly approaching, you may be looking to make room at home for the arrival of new gifts. If you have any unwanted toys that your child / children no longer play with please could you think about donating to Nursery. We are always happy to accept items to make our Nursery brighter. We are especially looking for number books and to increase our construction area with a tool station and tools.

Football



On Tuesday, Raglan Boys played their third and final fixture against Darrick Wood. With both teams going unbeaten so far this season, we knew the result would be decided by the finest of margins. Darrick Wood took an early lead through a set piece goal. However, Raglan showed real desire, perseverance and teamwork to fight back, equalising in the second half. Unfortunately, with both teams tirelessly pushing on to score the deciding goal - a goal that would see either team finish top of the group - Darrick Wood managed to score from another set piece in the dying embers of the game to win. Although this was an extremely tough result to take, the boys can hold their heads high. They have gone from strength to strength this season, challenging teams from bigger schools with fields to practise on. I am tremendously proud of how the boys have developed their attributes and represented the school as a team. In addition, their behaviour and enthusiasm for each of the fixtures we have played has been second to none. Now that we are approaching the Christmas holidays, football will take a backseat. However, there should hopefully be plenty more opportunities to represent the school in the spring and summer terms. Once again, a massive thank you to all of the supportive, selfless parents, who have given up their time to ensure we can travel to games and support the children - you make my job a lot easier and I truly appreciate it. Mr Sykes

Severe Weather Protocol

As we move towards winter I thought it would be useful to remind you of the protocol when we have extreme weather predicted, such as snowfall. The school would only be closed if:

- We failed to have enough staff make it in to school which meant we did not have correct staff / pupil ratios.
- We had no access to hot water and heating (there was some sort of problem preventing hot water or heating).
- Catering staff were unable to make it in to school which would mean we were unable to provide school meals for pupils.

When extreme weather is predicated we will be informing parents about school remaining open or staying closed via Arbor/the website/Twitter and Instagram. We will aim to do this at latest by 7.30am.

Like last year when we did open on the two days that we had some snow cover, we will do everything we can to remain open – especially if it does snow – because playing out in the snow is great fun!

And Finally...

This week Mr Farmer started a cycle of working with some Year 4 children on times tables and seeing how proficient they are in recalling these – this ahead of their National timetables test in June. He was pleased with the children that he worked with who showed a very good knowledge of these. It is clear that the children have been practising. Having said this, I would like to reiterate to you all to keep practising times tables and divisions of times tables with your children. The younger the children learn these and can rapidly recall them, the easier maths will be, and the more confident children become. In addition to this, please do READ, READ and READ some more at every opportunity you get with your children because reading provides the access to all learning.

With the cooler weather approaching this weekend, ensure you rug up and keep warm!

Thank you for your continued support,
Mr De Freitas