

Welcome to Kea School Friends!

Kea School Friends (KSF) is the PTA for Kea Community Primary School. We are a registered charity (Reg. Charity No. 1050662) that works alongside school staff and pupils in order to supplement and enhance the curriculum.

Who Are We?

Well, we are you!

Parents of Kea School pupils volunteer to run the PTA. Every parent at the school contributes to KSF in different ways. We have permanent committee members who are voted in every year during the September AGM; members who dip in and out as they have the time/talents/resources to offer; and other parents who may not be able to join in at an organisational level but contribute through donations, buying our goods and joining in the fun at fayres and other events.

The principal goal we all have in common is to help provide the best possible experiences for our children at Kea.

Why Do We Need KSF?

Schools always need more money! We organise fun events for our children, help teachers with resource requests, fund travel for excursions and swimming lessons, and raise money for school equipment. Teachers, pupils and parents can put in a request to KSF for something they feel would benefit the school. A teacher informed us that a sizable portion of her yearly science budget was being spent on batteries for equipment. In order to free up her budget for more educational purposes KSF agreed to fund the purchase of batteries – a commitment that will be reviewed and renewed annually. A parent recently requested that a particular educational magazine subscription be

funded by KSF. KSF understood that this would benefit all pupils of the school and be freely available in the library. Recently, a Yr. 2 pupil asked the School Council for a wildflower area in the school to help bees and contribute to national conservation strategies. Upon formal agreement, the seeds for this will be purchased by KSF and utilised by teachers as part of the school curriculum, teaching about gardening, the environment and conservation.

Requests are considered at a public meeting where the committee will see if the funds are available, if it is in the best interest of most (although preferably all) of the children, and check it isn't something that should come out of the school's own budget. Being able to meet these requests is very satisfying!

We are also open to fundraising ideas people may have. Just talk to the KSF Rep for your year group (if you don't know who this is have a look on the noticeboard in the main playground); come to the next KSF meeting (dates are also publicised on the noticeboard); or email the KSF Chairperson.

When Do KSF Meet and Can I Come?

As a busy and productive PTA we have KSF meetings fairly regularly, starting with the AGM in September. Everyone is welcome! Apart from the AGM which is held at School, meetings are usually held at the Punchbowl and Ladle in Penelewey at 7.30pm on a weekday evening.

Looking After Your Contributions: Our Charity's Ethical and Open Approach

While KSF operates independently from the school, the fundraising activities are admittedly interwoven into school life in the form of non-uniform days, cake sales, tombola donations etc. Consequently, it is highly likely that as a parent of a pupil at Kea you will contribute financially or otherwise to KSF. For this reason we are aware that we have a responsibility to ep parent donors informed regarding the success of their

contributions and KSF's fundraising goals and achievements, while offering opportunities to contribute to KSF agendas. We do this by adhering to the universal charity principles of transparency and accountability, informing parents of our fundraising efforts and intentions using the noticeboard in the playground, the Kea School Parents Facebook page, our quarterly KSF newsletter, and by making sure parent donors know they are invited to meetings. Minutes for recent meetings and previous newsletters will be available in our KSF folder in Kea School foyer and annual budget breakdowns are available on request. Our class reps also endeavour to be open and available to any parent who wishes to understand why we spend that money the way we do or contribute to how we do things. We also have an anonymous comments and suggestions box in the school foyer. It is important to underline the fact that all KSF activities are undertaken by volunteers and that no money is withdrawn that doesn't directly affect KSF fundraising efforts.

Where is KSF Based?

In the playground, mostly! You will have one or two reps that are part of the KSF committee in your class. These people are friendly and keen to hear ANY ideas or concerns you might have about KSF events and fundraising. Whenever we meet the time and place will be posted on the playground noticeboard and in the school newsletter.

Can I Join In?

Yes! You do simply by buying things we sell. The parent/teacher/pupil community makes up Kea School Friends. More official KSF committee positions are usually volunteered for at the AGM which is held in September, during the day, at school. This is also when the dates for key events are put in place (typically future meetings, the Christmas Fayre, Easter Bingo, Summer Fete). ALL are welcome at this meeting, even if it's just for a bit of a nose and some cake! 😊 **EVERYONE is welcome to join in on any KSF business at any time and for any reason.** Come help with wrapping books for the kids at Christmas, donate to our raffles (we run very fine raffles!), chat while doing the

ticketing for tombolas, run a stall for 30mins at a fayre, store stuff for us, set up or tidy after events or, best of all, contribute your fundraising ideas and carry on buying things from us!

Events KSF Volunteers Organise

KSF members organise the school disco, the Christmas Fayre, the Summer Fete and Easter Bingo annually, as well as other, pop-up events. 2017/18 hopes to see an evening picnic and proms event (aka Keastock!) and possibly a Ball as well... While events are often held on the school premises they are not actually organised or run by Kea School (although we love it when teachers are involved in the fun of the actual event 😊). Organising these events involves a lot of different skillsets offered within the school parent body. Between us we budget for, source and arrange the venues, the food and drinks, the raffle and tombola prizes, the number of and type of stalls and contributors. We also do risk assessments, necessary health and hygiene certification, safeguarding children training and DBS checks, accounting, PR and comms, making and distributing posters, booking acts/guests... That parents of the school come together to do all this in their spare time is truly amazing. If you feel you have anything to offer or want to learn some new skills through your work with KSF do come along to a meeting.

Fundraising examples from 2017:

2017 was a storming year for KSF.

- Chairperson Vicky Holland secured new sports kit for our sports teams ☺
Influence Planning really kindly sponsored 30 hoodies. (Massive thanks to Paul and Rachel plus another partner.)
- We funded hoodies for the class of 2017 leavers as a memento of their time at Kea.
- We funded coach travel to and from school swimming lessons (£3,000 annual commitment).
- We funded a significant portion of travel for a whole school summer trip to Falmouth.
- We have secured funding for a new 'living willow dome' to be set up in the school field for the children to play in (new to 2018).

Also:

Mrs Olive requested new 'Grammar and Spelling Dictionaries' for years 2 + 3.

We funded cooking ingredients for the whole school – many thanks to Mrs Lightfoot for organising and producing some very tasty treats!

We funded the whole school visit The Eden Project in the Winter Term, Museum trips for years 3-6, Royal Cornwall showground for years 3+4.

We funded a Viking actor to come to school to talk to the children about the Vikings.

We talked with Key Wear in Truro who very kindly donated 11 new full strip Football kits – absolutely amazing for Kea School and incredibly generous of KeyWear!

Ongoing Fundraising Efforts

We have a couple of ongoing fundraising efforts that we encourage people to sign up for that require very little effort! One we really like is [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk). Search for

'Kea School Friends' to raise funds when you shop online! All your weekly shops, holidays and insurances can all be done via easyfundraising.org.uk and raise money for school. It really is not difficult or time consuming and *doesn't* involve you signing up for spam or paying a bean.

In 2018...

We will be re-visiting the success of the 'bag2school' campaign! Parents are offered the opportunity to fill a bag with good quality, unwanted items that are collected for reuse or recycling by the 'bag2school' organisation (www.bag2school.co.uk). We raised over £300 in this way last year.

In a similar vein, KSF members have sorted used, unwanted or unclaimed school uniform to hold affordable **bi-termly second-hand uniform sales**.

We also hope to have a **Friday Tuck Shop** after school on Fridays. In the winter months we will sell hot chocolate and cookies under the parents shelter, and in the summer it will be lollies and ice cream! Watch this space ☺

We will be hosting a **Foundation Parents Get Together** early in the 2017/2018 academic year, to welcome parents new to the school.

We will be holding the very exciting **Keastock!**

Watch the noticeboards for updates! ☺

The Committee

Chairperson: Vicky Heffer

Vice chair: Tracy Baker

Secretary: Janine Thomas

Treasurer: Rachel Bateman

PR and Ents (Social Secretary): Leanne Woodward

Class Reps:

Foundation: Jules Hodgson and Karen Lovell

YEAR 1: Leanne Woodward and Peter Pollard

YEAR 2: Sarah Molloy and Leonie Brunsdn-Brown

YEAR 3: Becky Mould

YEAR 4: Becky Corbett and Sally Bunoomally

YEAR 5: Anna

YEAR 6: Debbie Taylor

**Thank you for reading our information booklet and we really hope you enjoy
being a part of KSF during your child's time at Kea School!**