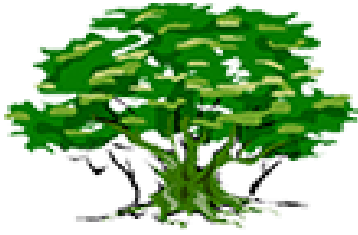


# Friends of Congerstone Primary School



November 2021

Facebook: please search for "Friends of Congerstone Primary" and request to join.  
Twitter: @CongerstonePTA  
Email: friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com

## **Hello and welcome to the Christmas Newsletter,**

We have lots of fun festive events planned for the Christmas Fair, there are activities which can be booked along with the return of our **live on-line Christmas Fair on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.** **Plus a request for volunteers, including people in Congerstone who would be willing to decorate their window for the Congerstone Christmas Snowman Trail.**

We thought it would be helpful to include all the information in one place as a handy reference, including 'Dates for your diary', and will continue to send reminders on social media and class Whatsapp groups nearer the time.

This year we have needed to think even more creatively to move events to a still sociable distance and to online. We hope that you will be able to support us, get involved and enjoy the events we are organising for Christmas.

Thank you very much for all your support already this year, we raised over £380 with the Pumpkin Trail and Congratulations to Phil (Dad of Jake year 1) the Pumpkin carving winner.

Very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2022

***Vicky and all the Friends Committee***

## **Who we are, and what we do**

Friends are a group of parent volunteers, we are ambitious in our efforts and work throughout the year organising a wide range of fun activities to raise funds for the direct benefit of all the children at Congerstone Primary School. We are a friendly group and always welcoming of new members.

**Chair:** Vicky Lear (mum of Rowan yr.4 and Hazel yr.2) 07787 525537

**Vice Chair & Cake Raffle:** Louise Martindill (mum of Ewan yr.5)

**Treasurer:** Katie Clarke (mum of Evie yr.5 and Eddie yr.3)

**Secretary:** Sarah Peacock (mum of Bealia yr.4 and Obin yr.1)

**Purchasing Coordinator:** Kate Kingsley (mum of Jessica yr.4 and Sophie yr.2)

**Sports & Events:** Clare Roscoe (mum of Freya yr.2)

**Social Media:** Kim Stafford (mum of Bella yr.6 and Oliver yr.3)

**Data Coordinator:** Karen Insley (mum of Ben and Jessica yr.5)

**100 Club:** Alison Ward (mum of Samuel yr.4 and Isabelle yr.2)

### **'Friends of Friends'**

We also have a number of people who volunteer as specific events are planned. We understand that people are busy and may not feel able to commit to joining the committee, so we would like to start building up a bigger volunteer team of those of you who would like to support us, even if just for a few hours at an event.

You may have super skills in planning, have fundraising ideas, enjoy the creative set up of events, have a business which may be able to help or are willing to help lend a hand even for an hour when setting up activities and want to feel involved with fundraising to help our school.

**If you would like to join our 'Friends of Friends' this would be really appreciated** and helps provide a first port of call when planning activities which require additional support.

Please speak to any member of the committee or email [friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com)

## **Help us raise money, at no cost to you 😊**

### **Shopping Cashback:**

**Amazon** If you are starting Christmas Shopping\* on Amazon, please remember to go through **Amazon Smile** and choose **Friends of Congerstone**. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1134092-0>

It costs you nothing but we receive a donation from Amazon on your purchases which all helps school funds. \*not just for Christmas, please use all year round!

**Gift Aid:** Friends has registered with HMRC for Gift Aid. This means that the value of eligible donations can be increased by 25% at no cost to you. All we need is a completed gift aid form, link below, which can be used to cover donations from the previous 4 years as well as those going forward. We would really appreciate you spending a **less than a minute** doing this to help boost funds at no extra cost to you.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAMAACVghdIUNIJQTE5NMUVTQIFZU09ESjFKUUIHNTk2RS4u>

**Match Funding:** If you work for a large company, do they offer Match Fundraising to their staff, where they would match funds raised for a charitable organisation such as ours, as part of their 'Support in the communities programme'? (Some large companies offer this but may not have advertised it to their staff very well or it may not have seemed relevant).

It would obviously be a significant benefit to Friends if we were able to match funds and increase the amounts raised. If you have any queries, or think you company may be able to offer this, please speak to Katie Clarke or email us [friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com)

Thank you very much for all your help

For most fundraising activities we have moved donations online to reduce contact needed at school.

**Bank Details:** Association of Friends of Congerstone School.

Sort Code 40-32-03. Account No. 81026909

# Christmas Fair

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 8pm online & events throughout December**

<https://patchworkit.com/41428/congerstone>

Once again we are hosting the Christmas Fair on the online platform Patchwork and are really pleased to offer a variety of activities.

Please click the link above where you will find access to book and join in the fun activities on offer. Scroll through the activities, add to basket to pay for your chosen items, then follow the instructions for each activity. Some information will be sent out directly to you after booking.

There will be live draws for the raffles and competition winners announced on Facebook on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 8pm onwards. <https://fb.me/e/8AeRzljf>

## Activities on offer include:

### Decorated Biscuit Competition – Kids & Adults categories

**Buy your Biscuit Decorating Kit** on Patchwork. £4 (4 biscuits & tube icing) Collect 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. Send a picture of your masterpiece (note if entrant is a child or an adult, with name, and class if child) to [friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com) before midnight Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. and we'll award the Best Decorated Prize. Any decorated biscuits can be entered – they don't need to be made from the Friends kits. FREE to enter. *Winners announced at live event.*

### Pizza Making Kits:

Order your kit on Patchwork by midnight Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. and collect after School (outside School) Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Back by popular demand, supplied by Pop Up Gourmet. Choose from Cheese & tomato, Pepperoni or Vegetarian and enjoy making your pizzas. 12" kit £5

### Christmas Craft Packs:

Craft packs for children to enjoy at their leisure. Materials included. £3 per pack.  
Cracker Making.  
Bauble Decorating.  
Bookmark/Shrinky keyrings.

### Santa's Little Helper – Festive Pet Show:

Send us pics of your furry friend in a festive mood, before midnight Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, and we'll give a prize to the most creative owner and the cutest pet! £1 per entry.

*Winners announced at live event.*

### Guess Number of Sweets in the Jar:

Have a look at the photo of the jar on Patchwork. FREE to enter – just include your guess in the comments at 'checkout'

The winner receives the jar of sweets to enjoy!

*Winners announced at live event.*

<https://patchworkit.com/41428/congerstone>

### **Christmas Cake Raffle:**

Buy your tickets on Patchwork to be in with a chance of winning the Christmas Cake. £1 per entry.  
*Winner announced at live event.*

### **Christmas Snowman Trail in Congerstone:**

Head into the village and follow the trail. Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December.  
£5 per child including a gift from Santa.  
Pre-order packs by end Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.  
Collect trail packs after school Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December – outside school.

### **Santa's Grotto:**

Meet Santa virtually! Santa will be meeting children individually/in family groups on Zoom.  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December between 6.30 – 8.30pm.  
£3 per child/family meeting. Parents to supply gift if they choose to.  
A ticket can be purchased through the Patchwork site and then the online meetings will be arranged.  
Bookings to be made by midnight Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Guess Teddy's Name:**

Have a look at our Teddy on Patchwork and submit your name guess in the comments section.  
The winner receives the cute teddy for Christmas. £1 per entry. *Winner announced at live event.*

### **Bottle Tombola:**

The annual classic ☺ Get involved in the ever popular tombola for a chance to win a bottle.  
£1 per entry. Always worth multiple entries! *Winners will be contacted after live event.*

### **Luxury Hamper Raffle:**

Purchase tickets on Patchwork to be in with a chance of winning one of our beautiful luxury hampers to be enjoyed over the festive period. £3 per entry. *Winners announced at live event.*

We hope you are able to support us and enjoy the activities.

<https://patchworkit.com/41428/congerstone>

## Requests for Donations and Volunteers:

**Luxury Hampers:** To create the fabulous Luxury Hampers for our Raffle, as always we rely on the generosity of parents in their donations. This year we are not theming the hampers by class, instead we are asking for donations for luxury hampers which would be enjoyed over the festive period.

There will be collection baskets outside School at drop off and pick up each day Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Bottle Tombola:** Children are invited to wear Non-Uniform to School on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in exchange for a bottle donation for the Christmas Fair Bottle Tombola. Please leave (full!!) bottles in collection buckets outside School at morning drop off on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Thank you

**Volunteers in Congerstone to decorate their window for Snowman Trail:** If you live in the village and would be willing to decorate your window (or house!) for inclusion in the Snowman Trail please contact Vicky Lear directly (07787 525537) Thank you.

## Dates for your diary

- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas cards can be brought in to School Monday to Wednesday each of these weeks for distribution in class.
- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:** Luxury Hamper Donations. There will be collection baskets outside School at drop off and pick up each day. Thank you.
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December:** Non-Uniform Day in exchange for a bottle for Christmas Fair Bottle Tombola. Please leave bottles in collection buckets outside School at morning drop off. Thank you.
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December:** Collect pre-ordered Biscuit kits after School, from truck outside School. Last day to order Pizza making kits and Congerstone Christmas Snowman Trail. £5 each. Through Patchwork link <https://patchworkit.com/41428/congerstone>
- **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Dinner in School.
- **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December:** Submit entries for Festive Pet & Decorated Biscuit Competitions by midnight to [friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcongerstone@gmail.com)
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Jumper Day. £1 or a donation of your choice brought to School for Save the Children charity.
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Collect pre-ordered Congerstone Christmas Snowman Trail Packs, Craft Packs and Pizza Kits after School, from truck outside School. Last day to book for Santa's (virtual) Grotto.
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Fair online from 8pm onwards on Friends Facebook page, including winners announced for Christmas Biscuit Decorating Competition, Festive Pet Show, Sweets in Jar, Cake Raffle, Teddy's Name, and live draw of Luxury Hampers Raffle and Bottle Tombola.
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Congerstone Christmas Snowman Trail around the village.
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** Last day to bring Christmas cards into School to be distributed in class.
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Pre-booked online meetings with Santa.
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** School closes.
- **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022:** School reopens.