**AUGUST 2018**

 NEWSLETTER

Follow us **NOW** on  FriendsofERSM - newly launched.

Follow us **NOW** on  friends of east renfrewshire school music

Finally, here is a list of upcoming events for your diary.

**Who are Friends of ERSM?** We are a Scottish registered charity (SC032346) dedicated to raising funds to support the work and aims of the Schools Instrumental Music Service across East Renfrewshire. The committee comprises of parent volunteers whose children currently attend the Music Schools. We have provided funding for new specialised instruments, additional sheet music and hardship assistance for residential courses. We are always delighted to welcome new committee members and listen to any new innovative ideas. Meet us on Saturday mornings at Williamwood High School.

**A very warm welcome back to all of our musicians. A particular welcome to all of our new musicians. You are at the start of a truly amazing journey into the world of Music!**

**The committee trust that you had a wonderful summer break and are as excited as we are about the year ahead. I know that all of the team at East Renfrewshire Music Services are raring to go.**

**A number of exciting initiatives are being investigated by the committee to raise more funds to support the Music Services Team. These include the following:**

* **The opportunity to buy a branded re-useable hot drinks cup. Not only will this help to raise additional funds but will enable us to significantly reduce our disposable cup usage.**
* **We have asked if we can place a sealed (small) donations can on the café counter. This will be emptied and counted at the end of the Saturday morning by two committee members and put into the Friends of East Renfrewshire Schools Music bank account.**
* **We now have a licence to sell raffle tickets in advance of our Christmas Open Day event. I hope that you will support us in this. It should enable us to plan the event earlier and to offer better prizes whilst increasing funding at the same time!**
* **We are in the early stages of investigating the feasibility of a ceilidh. It would be a wonderful opportunity to meet up and enjoy our traditional music. It would also give some of the children who play our traditional musical instruments the opportunity to showcase their talent alongside the more experienced performers. Obviously, we would need a significant interest in this to make it work but let’s see where we can take it.**

**Bally will continue to run her Fridge Magnet sales on a Saturday morning. They proved to be very popular with the younger children and I am told that they can be seen on fridges everywhere!**

Finally, and perhaps most importantly we would encourage you to join our committee - The more the merrier! We really are a friendly bunch and I am determined to arrange a committee social event this year! People with a good understanding of social media or a background in accountancy would be particularly helpful. We have recently created Twitter/Facebook accounts - see front page - and are in the early stages of understanding how we can make the best use of them.

It’s a small commitment compared to what our young people get out of it and the major event is the Christmas Open Day Raffle and Tombola. We have a particular need for help at this one.

Please speak to any of the committee members on a Saturday morning at Williamwood if you would like to help.

We will be having a meeting at 10 o’clock on Saturday the 8th of September. Feel free to come along.