

## Welcome to your PTA

Charity Number 1058305

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### Welcome to our school

This PTA newsletter has been compiled by our PTA especially for you if you are a new family joining our school community. It aims to provide you with information about our Parent Teacher Association which forms a major part of school life.

If you have any questions that remain unanswered, please contact one of the PTA committee: Tara McCormack, Nighet Malik (co-chairs) Natalie Milton (Secretary) and Joyce Rosemond (Treasurer).

### Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a PTA that is and has been an integral part of the school community for many years. In its time the PTA has raised thousands, which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's education experience and the school's facilities.

Our PTA is about much more than simply fundraising. The PTA 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 is fun too! All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available.

### Links with local businesses

We have, over time, developed strong links with the local community and are always well supported by both residents and businesses, for which we are very grateful. Many of our local shops are very generous providing donations for raffle prizes, auction items etc. This has made a huge difference to our fundraising efforts.

### Role of the Committee

Our PTA committee consists of four officers: Two co-chairs, a Treasurer and a secretary. The Committee meet on a regular basis usually once or twice per term.

### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

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

We have a growing list of PTA volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the committee. **Every little helps, so just one hour assisting at an event would be invaluable.**

If you are interested in joining the committee or becoming a PTA volunteer, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the Committee.

### Support from NCPTA (National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations)

Our PTA is a member of the NCPTA, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance. We pay an annual membership fee to the NCPTA which gives us lots of member benefits including comprehensive insurance cover for all PTA run events, support and advice on running the PTA plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips. In addition, we have a valuable resource at our fingertips – [www.ncpta.org.uk](http://www.ncpta.org.uk).

## 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:

- **The annual school summer fair**
- **Kids Disco**
- **Furzedown Fit**
- **Quiz evening**
- **Snowball**

***And not forgetting the delicious cake sales which are always a big hit with the children!***

In addition, our annual design a Christmas card is always very popular as are the bi-annual Bag2School collections.

So you can see there is always something going on. We always try and respond to the children's requests; it is great to see them having fun at the events or enjoying using a piece of new equipment that the PTA has donated.

## How we spend the money we raise

Following a fundraising event the money is banked straight away. It is at our PTA Committee meetings, that the decisions on how to spend the money are agreed.

Usually, Mrs Wilson (having consulted with others) will have a 'wish list' of items that the school would like the PTA to consider funding. It might be for resources to improve a particular area of the curriculum or school environment for example the **early year's playground equipment, the willow tree den in the courtyard area. The PTA has supplied ipads to each class for the children to use, plus many more little extra's!**

The PTA funds are spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget – making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting.

PTA funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building as this is the responsibility of the school Governing Body. The PTA spends money on things that will benefit the children directly.

The money we raise is usually spent fairly quickly. That way, you can be sure that in

supporting our school and your child or children will feel the benefit, along with everybody else.

## How we get information to you

All PTA letters sent home are included in your child's pack folder or via email if we have your email details. We also have a PTA section on the school's website. The letters include information on forthcoming events and dates plus requests for assistance, when we are planning large events. Following a PTA event, we always display on the notice boards how much was raised.

If you would like to receive information by email, please let the current chairs have your email address.

## How you can get involved

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through the PTA.

Offering to help before events or at other times during the year is so valuable. It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you cannot come into school. There are always jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. making cakes, sweetie jars etc, preparing raffle tickets etc or copying letters for the school bags. We really couldn't achieve what we do without the behind the scenes help that we receive.

You can help by letting us know if you have any contacts or skills we could use, everything is potentially valuable to us. **We really appreciate your help.**

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. We hope you now know a little more about **your** Parent Teacher Association.

If you are new to the school, why not come along to this year's AGM please check the notice boards, facebook group or speak to your class rep they will always be able to find out information. We look forward to seeing you there.

**From all the PTA Committee**

**To contact the PTA please email:**  
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