



Dear St Peter's parents, carers and friends,

Next Wednesday 14th November is a really important day for St Peter's. It's the Annual General Meeting of our Parents, Friends and Teachers association, FOSPS - Friends of St Peter's School.

We're a little bit worried that some people may not have put this date in their diary, and that not many people will come! We are concerned that they may think they don't need to, that "there's plenty of other people to do that...". Well, unfortunately, there's NOT.

Our PTA is REALLY important because it helps raise money to pay for things at school. In days gone by it was just for little extras, for treats, but not any more. Our school budget is stretched to breaking point and we've had to cut so many things; it has been our PTA that has helped us out significantly over these last couple of years. Sadly, it's always just a small number of people who do it, and they desperately need more parents to come forward and help.

There are some really good reasons to be part of FOSPS.

1 It's good for your child

Research shows that children whose parents are involved at school do better and have fewer disciplinary problems.

2 It's important to the school

Schools are more dependant than ever on funds raised by PTAs. The money they raise provides support to teachers and office staff and also helps to create a positive and caring atmosphere in the school.

3 You'll meet people

You'll know what's going on in school, and get to know teachers and other parents too.

4 You'll make a difference

You'll be using your skills for a good cause – creating the best educational environment for your children

5 It's fun!

You'll be able to get together with other people who all want to create the best environment for their children, plan fun events (for both adults and children) and get-togethers in which the whole family can be involved.

6 You'll be a role model

You'll show your children that not only are they important to you, but that their education is important to you too. That's a good thing for them to see – that you value their education and they should too.

7 Raise funds

Government funding cuts really hit small schools like St Peter's hard, so the money raised by FOSPs is actually needed to help with the basics, not the extras.

8 It's flexible

Everyone has different things they can offer; it's not always about organising events– FOSPs needs 'doers' as well as organisers! People who can man a stall, wrap Christmas presents, sell raffle tickets (to friends and family) and make tea and coffee! And everyone has different amounts of time they can offer – it's ALL valuable.

9 It's for everyone!

Every parent is automatically a part of the PTA; it's not some secret little group that is only for 'special' people! It's for EVERYONE! We need you ALL!

The things is, if we don't get enough people to come forward we just can't run events and that means we can't raise the money for the things that school needs.

PLEASE make your very best effort to come to the AGM next week on Wednesday – it doesn't mean that you're making a huge commitment; it will give you the chance to see what it's about to show support for those people who are trying their very best to help all the children at St Peter's.

Michele Lawrie
Headteacher