

Friends of St Patricks

JOIN US!

To get involved and find out more about what we do or how you could help, please get in touch. If you see us around school, come up and say hello!

The school needs your help and support more than ever!

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WHY NOT COME ALONG
TO OUR NEXT MEETING?

Wednesday the 27th March – start 19:00



MEMBERS APPEAL - PLEASE READ

We really need your support!

As children move up to big school, it is so important to have new active members of the PTA (Friends of St Patricks) joining us.

School budgets are tightening, and more and more the funds created by the PTA are relied upon for day to day items.

At the next meeting Mrs Lomas is coming to talk to the PTA in a bit more detail about the school funding crisis, the how the funds we raise are vital in supporting the school. We as parents can make a huge difference, not only in the education of our children but in giving them fun events to take part in.

School should be fun, that's what makes the learning stick in our little ones brains! We are the ones who can make the fun – the funding from government barely covers the basics so we are essential in bringing the FUN!

The biggest fund raising events are the Fayres with the previous two fayres (summer and Christmas) raising an amazing £2400 between them. However, these events are really challenging to manage and coordinate.

We have a core few members regularly volunteering in PTA events and attending meetings, and we know how hard it is to make it to the meetings. We are all working mums and in the same boat but with dwindling members we are struggling to keep up with the amount of work required to keep this going.

If you could please make this next meeting it would be amazing! You don't have to be on time, you will not be judged, we all have little ones who don't generally like to go to bed when we want them to.

We want your ideas, how can we communicate with you, what events do you love/hate? How can we get you involved without the commitment that we all struggle with?

Do you have some skills which would help us? Do you want some experience to help with job applications? Want to meet other parents and make friends?

Without your help we are not sure how long the PTA can continue for, and that would be a terrible shame for school funding and mainly for the children, no more discos, movie nights, secret shops or Fayres for the children to enjoy...

Yep we are grovelling – but it is desperate times I am afraid!

Please come and help us to help the school and your child!

Thank you for reading this! x

PTA fact from fiction

When you support your PTA, you're not just baking a cake, writing a cheque or giving up your time to volunteer. You're buying your child playground equipment to climb on at break time, you're sending them on outings to places they've never been, you're making new friends, building a community, and you're helping to make your child's school that little bit better.

We've heard stories about the fears of getting involved with the PTA so let us help you banish your reservations and reap the rewards for you and your child.

What is a PTA?

A PTA (also called Friends association, Parents association or other combination) is an open, friendly group of parents (and teachers/ family/ members of the community) working towards a common goal; supporting the education of the children at your school and strengthening the school community.

Everyone's invited

Now that your child has started at school, you're already a member of the parent association. How involved you choose to become is up to you. If you're passionate about making a difference and want to be involved in running the association, you might want to consider joining the committee. If you have ideas to share and time to volunteer (it doesn't matter how much), head along to the next meeting.

It's great for the kids (even if they don't realise it)

Studies show there's a direct link between parental involvement at school and a child's attainment; when children see us involved in their school and learning, it encourages them to do their best. Being active

in a parent group not only improves your child's school, it makes you an excellent role model.

It won't take over your life (unless you want it to!)

There are always plenty of opportunities to volunteer for your PTA. Whether you work full-time, part-time, or you're a stay-at-home parent, any time you can offer will be welcomed. PTAs are involved in a huge range of activities, all with varying time commitments, so how much or how little you choose to get involved really is up to you.

We all have something to offer

It doesn't matter how many children you have, how old you are, or what your background is; the skills that PTAs need are so diverse that everyone has something to offer. Of course, if you have book-keeping experience you're likely to be ear-marked as a future treasurer, and anyone showing a creative flair might be asked to design a poster for the summer fair – but the most important skills you can bring to your PTA are enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in.

It's good for you

Joining the PTA is a fast way to get to know other parents and staff outside of your child's year group. Feeling part of a community is a very real human need – and more practically, these friendships create a support network. Chances are there will be opportunities for you to learn new skills, and who knows, you may even discover some hidden talents!

