

WPA PTA

An Introduction



Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the new reception class and their parents/carers to Wickhambrook Primary Academy. It can be a daunting and emotional time, but there really is no better start for your child's education than this amazing school. Welcome also to those pupils joining higher up in the school and their parents/carers, this is all new for you too! And we can't forget of course a big welcome back to all the other classes and their parents/carers! Thank goodness our children can step back into the school environment for a small taste of normality, albeit a little bit different.

We wanted to introduce ourselves, and our role as the PTA, within the school, and what we aim to achieve.

We are a collective group of parents/carers and teachers who collaborate to hold various events and think up new fund raising ideas to earn extra money, which directly benefits the school and pupils within it. There are no deductions, we all volunteer our time, experience, knowledge and ideas, this is not a paid role. Previously, and prior to COVID-19, we have held 2-3 annual school discos, table-top sales, Christmas fayres, pamper nights, film club and many more events, as well as served refreshments at school-led events such as parents evening. This has enabled us to purchase for the school things such as:-

- the adventure playground
- bark chips for the playground areas
- £4,000 of new books for the school library
- a large TV monitor
- £100 for each class to provide additional materials such as new paints, glue, paper etc during the school year and many more besides.

We only hold irregular meetings as required for-upcoming events. Our meetings are to help plan and arrange preparation of events and discuss ideas. Availability for manning these events is always gained through volunteers within the PTA, backed up by staff who must be present anyway. We also have a messenger/email group for discussions and ideas out of meetings. To ensure the safety of children and others, every PTA member has a DBS check carried out by the school before they are able to have 1:1 contact with any child. This check is done regardless of any previous DBS checks that may have been carried out previously and we also undertake regular-safeguarding training when available locally.

As we are lucky enough to have quite a large PTA for the size of school, it allows the luxury of events to not necessarily be too time consuming for any individuals. Some of our work may require people's help during the day and others after school or in evenings actually helping at the events, so it doesn't matter if you are a shift worker or have plans during

certain days, we all work flexibly together. We do of course lose some parents every year through children leaving for their secondary school places so ...

With this in mind, we welcome anyone who thinks they may be able to give us a little amount of time throughout the year, to join us. We are a friendly bunch and have fun along the way. We like to be representative of the school as a whole, so ideally would like at least one adult from each class of children to be part of the team, but there are no limits, the more the merrier! If you think this would be of interest to you but would like to discuss this further, then please feel free to talk to any member of the current PTA listed below, or contact us by message through our Facebook page or the school office.

Find us on Facebook at:-

<https://www.facebook.com/Wickhambrook-Primary-Academy-PTA-Page-1784446288463876>

We do appreciate that becoming a PTA member is not for everyone though. But do you have some fundraising ideas you could suggest to us instead? Unfortunately, the majority of our usual events will simply not work in the current climate and yet all our children and the school still need our support to help with extra funding. Things are going to be a little different for the foreseeable future and we will have to alter how we do things. Change has been forced on us, let's embrace it!

Our AGM will soon be set up, although at this time it will be through a zoom meeting or similar, and it would be amazing to see some new faces as well as our regular fabulous team. Details of the meeting will be sent to all interested parties and the current PTA in due course, so please message the school office if you would like to access this.

Thank you so much for reading.

Please find below your current PTA members and the classes their children are in:-

Chair - Natalie Jepson (Yrs 2 & 4)

Vice chair - Kirsty Parker (Yrs 3 & 6)

Secretary - Alison Parfitt (Yr 2)

Treasurer - Samantha Grainger (Yr 3)

David Bynoe (Yr 1)

Anita Harman (Yr 2)

Jo Mitchell (Yr 5)

Rebecca Newell (Yr 4)

Anna Shepherd (Yr 1 & 4)

Jennie Watson (Yr 2)

Claire Cooper (Yr 5)

Samantha Jones (Yr 1 & 4)

Jessica Moore (Yr 6)

Vicki Rees (Reception & Yr 2)

Mary Talusan (Reception & Yr 4)

Mike Webb (Yr 2)

#teamwicktogether