

Welcome to Our PTA



**Bagthorpe Primary School
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Introduction

A very, warm welcome to our school.

This booklet has been written especially for you, as a new family within our school community. We realise it can be strange and a little nerve-wracking joining a school, and there always seems to be so many questions to ask! This booklet aims to set out the information you will need about the Bagthorpe PTA, which is a big part of our school life.

If after having read it (and we apologise for the length!) you have any questions, please have a word with Mrs Cooke, our School Office Manager or Mrs Walters, our Clerical Assistant, who will put you in contact with one of the PTA Members.



Why do we have a PTA?

We are very fortunate at our school to have a PTA, who are an integral part of the school community. In its time, the PTA has raised many thousands of pounds, which have been spent on improving equipment and resources to enhance our children's education and the facilities in school in general.

But it is much, much more than just fundraising. The PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school, and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents/carers and friends together socially in support of the school working towards a common goal. Obviously as in any organisation, there are times when it is more challenging, but with the continued support of parents and staff, the group has always succeeded in its efforts.

All parents/carers and members of the school community can get involved if they want to, even if they only have a small amount of time available, and all parents are automatically members of the PTA when they join our school.

The PTA are conscious of the ethos of our school, and we try very hard when organising and planning events to respect this. Not all of our involvement in school is fundraising. For example:

- Friends are able to assist the teaching staff by listening to children read.
- Helping to prepare materials for lessons, eg, displays, cutting paper, letters.
- Helping on Let's GLOW! Days, etc.

Links with Local Business

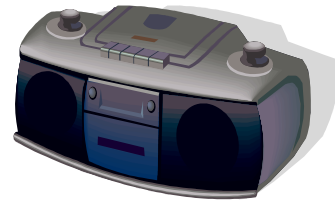
We have, over time, developed links with the local community and are always well supported by both residents and businesses, for which we are very grateful. Many of our local shops are very generous in their donations of raffle prizes etc., and some have taken part in our Summer Fayre.

Role of the Members

The members meet on a regular basis to plan events. This is an opportunity for all parents/carers to come along and hear in more detail about events run and funds raised, and how the money has been spent.

How we raise money

As in most schools, the majority of our funds are raised through events that we run, including Summer Fayre, Christmas Fayre, Termly Disco and Film Nights and various others from time to time. Donations are extremely important. These can be time, money, items for sale, donations for raffles, or offers of services and skills etc.



How we spend the money we raise

Mr Walton will know of items that the school would like to purchase. Sometimes this will be as a result of the children asking for something, such as the outdoor playground equipment. At other times it will be for the resources to improve a particular area of the curriculum or school environment. In the main the PTA funds are for the 'extras' not provided by the school budget, that make our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting.

The PTA's funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building as this is the responsibility of the School Governing Body. We endeavour to spend our funds in ways that will benefit ***all*** our children across all areas of the school and curriculum.

How we get information to you

Our school newsletters give forthcoming dates for events, along with updates and requests for help when we are planning large events. Following events, we always write to let you know how much was raised – this may also be through the monthly School newsletter.

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 really is a case of ‘many hands make light work’. It doesn’t matter if you can’t help on a regular basis, or even if you can’t come into school. There are always little jobs that can be done if you have half an hour to spare – eg preparing raffle tickets, etc. We really didn’t achieve what we do without the unseen help that exists in school.

If you feel able, you can volunteer just to come to a meeting. You can attend any meeting and share with us your ideas for fundraising events – this is also the time to ask questions or voice your opinion.

And finally, we are always extremely grateful to receive donations as mentioned before.

What the PTA means to us

Because the PTA involves the whole school community we thought you might like to know what others think about the group:

From our Head Teacher, Mr Walton

The PTA meet together and share great ideas for planning exciting fundraising events for widening and enhancing the experiences of our children. We welcome everyone – parents, grandparents, carers, friends and relations. Many of our group give up a lot of their time for our school and my staff and I wish to record our thanks to each and every one of them. Our children are accessing a growing wealth of high quality resources for use inside and outside school which would not be possible without their time, effort and support. I always enjoy my meetings with the PTA and look forward to working with them on new ideas and projects in the near future.

From the Governing Body

The PTA provide valuable resources for the school which we would be unable to have within the tight funding we have from the LA. The group is made up of willing parent volunteers who work hard to organise and run activities for all of us to take part in and in doing so we all help to provide our children with the 'extras' that the budget would not allow for. The Governors would like to thank all the members of the PTA for their hard work and dedication – it is really appreciated.

From the children

We have had so many new things to use in school and in the playground from your money. We also enjoyed building the willow structure, which you bought for us. It has made our bog garden much better. Thank you to all our mums, dads, carers and friends.

And finally, from the PTA themselves...

Thank you for taking the time to read our booklet. We hope that it has shown you a little more about what the PTA Group does.

On behalf of all the children, we would like to thank you for your very valuable support which enriches their learning experiences and enhances their school environment.

Thank you

Bagthorpe Parent-Teacher Association