



PTA Newsletter 28 September 2020

PTA News

Welcome back to all parents and children new and old the school. Its lovely seeing the children being back at school, they have all really missed school – even if they don't want to admit it!

I am Ruth Coulthard and I am Mum to Millie in Class 3 and Jessie in Class 2. I am the current Chair of Irthington Village School PTA. I took over from Rachel Matthews in January 2020 and since then I haven't had much to do with the PTA due to COVID-19.

We are due to hold our Annual AGM for the school PTA. This is open to everyone to come along and the more the merrier. The AGM will be held on **Monday, 19 October 2020 at 7.00pm at Newtown Village Hall**. They are usually held in the school but due to current COVID-19 restrictions this is not possible.

We need to appoint a new Secretary as Rachael Smithson has stood down as she is no longer a parent at the school. The role of Treasurer is currently held by Ryan Patterson. Both myself and Ryan are willing to stand again, but if anyone is willing to take over the roles, it will go to a vote at the AGM. If you wish to take up any of the roles, please could you let Mrs Harrison or myself know confidentially before the meeting.

We will also be discussing fundraising ideas for the coming year. If anyone has any ideas that work around the current restrictions in place please could you let me know. Unfortunately we will not be having the usual Christmas Fair this year which is usually a great money maker for the PTA.

PTA Purpose

The PTA is an organisation run solely by volunteers to raise money to help the school provide materials, resources and facilities for the benefit of everyone who uses the school by running a variety of events throughout the school year.

Significantly, the activities help to bring parents together and promote good communications between parents, staff and the village while working towards the common goal of a tight knit caring community.

All the parents and staff are members of the PTA, by default. Your involvement can be from enjoying the events to helping organise the events to suggesting new money raising ideas.

The PTA always welcomes and encourages new members. It is great to have the opportunity to capitalise upon the talents, skillsets and experience of our parents and staff.

As an example, in the past few years the PTA have been able to assist the school by:

- Funding the new homework books for all classes
- Subsidising school trips
- Improving and innovating in IT – the school were one of the first to have interactive touch screens!
- Subsidising activities such as:
 - The building of the Willow Domes
 - Whizz Kids sessions
 - The purchase of tricycles for early years

- The purchase of books and teaching resources
- The Children's Christmas Party
- The purchase of the staging for the hall
- Travelling pantomimes
- The purchase of school science equipment
- And so on....

Many thanks for reading this newsletter. If you would like to contact me you can do so by email PTA@irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk

Many thanks
Ruth Coulthard
PTA Chair