



Welcome to your PTA

Charity number: 1178220

Dear Parents and Carers,

We realise it can be strange and a little nerve-wracking starting at a new school and there always seems to be so many questions to ask. This letter aims to provide you with information about **Friends**, our *Parent Teacher Association (PTA)* which forms a major part of school life.

Why do we have a PTFA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a *PTA* that is and has been an integral part of the school community for many years. In its time *Friends* has raised tens of thousands of pounds, which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's education experience and the school's facilities.

Friends is about much more than simply fundraising. *Friends* aims to provide closer links between home, school and the wider community bringing everyone together socially in support of the school; **it is fun too** - just ask any of the Committee members or helpers.

How can you get involved?

Friends meet on a regular basis, usually once or twice per term and these meetings take place within the school staff room or at a local pub. 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 doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you cannot come into school. There are always jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. wrapping gifts, preparing raffle tickets etc. We really couldn't achieve what we do without the behind the scenes help that we receive.

If you would like to be more involved you can volunteer to be a Committee Member. Or you can simply support the AGM and give us your ideas for fundraising events. This is also the time to ask questions or voice your opinion

How we raise money?

The majority of our funds are raised through events that we have organised. Some of our most popular events are:


- *Welcome Disco*
- *Themed disco's (held throughout the year)*
- *Summer and Christmas fairs*
- *Class challenges (very popular)*
- *Easter bingo (an event held at the Local Sports Club)*
- *Non-uniform days*
- *Easy Fund Raising (see back page)*



So you can see there is always something going on. We always try and respond to the children's requests; it is great to see them having fun at the events or enjoying a piece of new equipment that *Friends* have provided through fundraising. These items have been provided thanks to a *wish list* from the school council (made up of children representatives from each class) which will have been presented to the committee at the AGM. The *wish list* consists of activities and resources the children feel themselves and the school would benefit from.

How we get information to you?

We have a regular slot on the weekly school newsletter keeping you up to date with events, meetings, requests for assistance when we are planning large events & anything *Friends* related. We also publish details of how funds have been distributed and what, if any, equipment and resources we have bought for the school.

If you have any questions that remain unanswered, please contact one of the committee members either in person, via our email or through your class teacher; we also have a Facebook page: ***Friends of Christ Church, Walshaw*** 

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We hope you now know a little more about *Friends* and how very valuable your support will enrich your Child's learning experience and makes their time in school even more enjoyable.

Friends