

# PTA Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our PTA Newsletter for this academic year. We are planning to send out newsletters each half term to let everyone know what PTA events are planned, how much money is being raised, how that money is being spent by the school, and how you can get involved with the PTA to help raise valuable funds for Yew Tree. This first newsletter includes some basic details about the PTA, particularly for parents/carers who are new to the school, and a request for Raffle Prize donations for the Christmas Fayre.

## What does the PTA do?

The PTA raises money for the school by organising various events for pupils and their families to enjoy throughout the year. It is run by a small group of volunteer parents/carers and raises approximately £4,000 a year, which is used to purchase equipment and optional extras for the benefit of the school and its pupils. For example, the outdoor classroom, iPads, new books and magazine subscriptions, the Outdoor Performance Stage and workshops run by visiting theatre groups.

## How can I get involved?

The PTA is a very friendly group and we always appreciate new members getting involved, helping us organise and run events and suggesting new ideas. Joining the PTA is also a great way to get to know other parents and carers across the different year groups.

We tend to meet up a few times each term during the school day, but we understand that everyone leads busy lives, and many of you won't be available during the day to attend our meetings.

However, we use WhatsApp to communicate with one another in-between meetings, so this is a good way for you to get involved with event-planning and letting us have your new ideas, even if you can't make it to the meetings themselves.

Any support you can provide during the events themselves is particularly valuable as we are a small group of volunteers with an awful lot to do! So you could perhaps help to move tables before one of the Fayres for an hour or so, or you might be able to run a stall for half an hour. Any help, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated.

The PTA is pleased to have welcomed several new members last year, and in particular we have appreciated the help of a number of parents who have English as an additional language - they have suggested new and exciting fund-raising ideas including getting children's magazines donated to us for free to sell at the Summer Fayre.

So far, we have welcomed new PTA members who are originally from Russia, Hong Kong, India and Iran.

## **Raffle Prizes/Silent Auction**

The Raffle and Silent Auction generally raise a lot of money for the school at the Christmas Fayre, but we do need to find suitable Raffle Prizes each year and this can be a time-consuming and difficult task. So if you have connections with a business/shop/company which you think might be willing to donate a prize to the school, please do let us know by completing the slip below or speaking to a member of the PTA. You are welcome to approach the business yourself informally, or we can give you a letter from the PTA to pass onto them if you'd prefer that.

Examples of past donations include: Voucher for Afternoon Tea; Christmas Hamper; iPad; Climbing Session Voucher; Signed Cookery Books; Family Theme Park Ticket; Christmas Wreath.

It can often take up to six weeks for a business to process a request for a prize donation so we need to make our requests as soon as possible.

Many thanks

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Halloween Bake Sale**

25<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Mufti Days**

8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November

#### **Christmas Fayre**

29<sup>th</sup> November

#### **Christmas Shop**

17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December

### **PTA Committee 2019/20**

- Chair: Samantha May
- Secretary: Caroline Stokes
- Treasurer: Donna Payley
- Vice-Chair: Louise Bennett
- Vice-Secretary: Laura Hearn
- Vice-Treasurer: Tatiana Ineshina

### **Money Jar Competition**

Last year we raised over £200 with the Money Jar Competition, so please continue to bring in any spare coins for the Money Jars – just hand them to your child's teacher. The aim is to fill the Money Jars as quickly as possible, and prizes will be awarded to winning classes throughout the school year.