

PTA Newsletter June 2019



So, once again a successful and enjoyable summer fair ends. I have already thanked most of the volunteers but I would like to say a big thank you to those of you who turned up on the day, dispatched grandparents, dragged along family, and friends and donated goods. The final figure is in and we raised a total of £1,300 which is a fantastic amount for a little school to raise in one day. I think most PTA's up and down the country would be extremely jealous of that figure and we still have the Grand Draw to finish off this year's fund raising!

Izzy will be moving to William Howard in September so we will be leaving this wonderful school in a number of weeks as will other parents of Class 3 children. I hope I speak for all when I say that this school and its little community of staff, helpers, children and parents has given our children the best possible start to their lives. My child is confident, happy, well-educated and has grown up with a strong set of values that will help her on the next part of her journey into adulthood.

I read Mrs. Harrison's letter about the funding situation and was initially at a loss how to respond. The numbers seem too big, even for the PTA but we do not need to find it all. If we can meet the deficit halfway with our funding or find ways to save money in the every-day costs of the school then every little bit helps. What is that saying? Watch the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves.

I used to think that I had very little to offer, now I know that we all have skills which, when put together, can make a huge difference. Maybe you can help the governors and staff come up with some innovative ideas for tackling the budget shortage or experiment with new fund raising initiatives on the PTA. Sometimes, it is about knowing the right people in the right places and creating that initial contact. It is just about finding your niche and doing what you can, but I am sure you all know this already.

In light of this information, I would be interested to know how you think the PTA should prioritise its funds. We have always subsidised certain trips and events in the past, do we need to do more of this? Would you rather the funds are spent on providing the extras that make the school a more welcoming, creative environment for the children? Is there anything you would rather we did not spend the funds on?

At the last committee meeting, we discussed the need to improve the appearance of the school. Certain areas, such as the hall are looking past their best, and it is important that decoration takes place in order to preserve and maintain the fabric of the building but also ensure that the environment is conducive to a good teaching and learning experience. We also need to ensure that potential newcomers to the school see the school at its best to sustain pupil numbers and therefore vital funds.

In preparation for this discussion, I obtained a number of quotes from local tradesmen, which as you would expect ran into the thousands. Understandably, many of the meeting attendees were reluctant to spend PTA funds on this as it did not benefit the children directly but were keen to address the need to smarten up the school. So, it was felt that a parent posse of decorators could potentially take on some areas of the school in the summer break. I know, I know... at this point, you are probably all sighing and throwing this letter down in disgust. I have been decorating our house for two years now and the end is nowhere in sight but sometimes you have to join in with the greater good. We will be there!

I won't be asking anybody to take on the dizzying heights of the hall, but maybe some of our more creative members can come up with ideas of breaking the height with a decorative border and we can concentrate on tidying the bottom half. If you feel you could help at all, be it creatively, physically, or financially then please complete the form at the back of this letter. We are not sure whether to hold a number of DIY SOS days at the end of term, throughout the summer or just as and when people can turn up. Some of the staff are willing to entertain the children to help with childcare issues on organized days. Any ideas are welcome.

Summer Social

One of our more enjoyable events of the year, this is a chance to come along and enjoy yourself with no expectation of raising any funds. We will also be drawing the grand raffle at this event so please encourage your family and friends to buy those yellow tickets, we have some amazing prizes this year. The social will take place on Friday 12th July from 6pm to 8pm, we will be running a BBQ and a cold buffet which should please both adults and children. The drinks policy is: "bring your own". It is normally a very relaxed affair and a good time for both parents and children to mingle and get to know each other, so we hope to see you there. We do have to charge a small ticket fee of £2 per adult and £1 per child to cover the cost of the BBQ food but everything else will be kindly supplied by members of the PTA. Please complete the slip at the back and hand into Mrs. Lawson on reception.

Amazon Smile

If you are anything like us and you regularly shop at Amazon, it is simple to donate (at no extra cost to you) 0.5% of the net purchase price to the PTA. To do this:

- Log in with your normal amazon details to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>
- You should get a page asking you which charity you would like to donate to – search for Irthington in the box and you should be able to click Irthington Village School PTA as your charity of choice
- That's it – just remember that you must shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, as it doesn't work through amazon.co.uk (my cynical side is saying – of course it doesn't).

I have bookmarked the link now as I kept forgetting but I have generated 0.60p so far over 3 weeks. If you add up the figures, the PTA could stand to gain a substantial amount over the course of the year for no effort at all. Donations to the PTA will be deposited in the back account on a quarterly basis so do not worry if it says we haven't received anything for a while.

Please don't forget to shop through smile.amazon.co.uk or your orders will not be eligible. FAQ about Amazon Smile attached.

CO-OP Brampton

We are in the process of applying to be a local cause at the Brampton branch of the CO-OP. I am not quite sure of the process of donating yet should we be selected but will let you know in due course.

AGM

The date for the next committee meeting and AGM is Thursday 24th September 2019 at 7pm at the school. It will be my last meeting and a chance for me to hand over to the new Chair so it goes without saying that we could do with your support. It is the most important meeting of the year so please try and attend if at all possible. The new constitution was adopted at the last meeting and will be filed with the charity commission very soon so it is really just normal PTA business you will need to contend with. I have added job roles for Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee member to the website under the PTA menu. The roles are not as onerous as you might think and the committee meetings are sociable and relaxed.

I have heard that many PTA's are struggling to keep going so we are very lucky that so many of you are willing to offer your time and financial support. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of the PTA for so many years and thank you for your friendship, help and advice, especially in my recent role as Chair. I will be monitoring the email/Whats App group throughout the summer break so if you come up with any brilliant ideas for fundraising whilst you are sitting on a sunny beach somewhere then just pop them through.

Diane Bryant
Mum of Izzy (Class 3)

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PLEASE SUPPORT IRTHINGTON VILLAGE PTA

All help is welcome – no matter how much or how little time you are able to give. We will contact you before events to find out what support you can offer.

Parents or Carers Name:	
Childs name and Class:	
Contact Mobile Number(s):	
Contact Email(s):	

<input type="checkbox"/>	I can help with the DIY SOS event:
<p>DIY SOS Comments: When is the best time for you? Summer holidays, Weekdays, Weekends, Evenings? Would childcare help? How can you help? Painting, Woodwork, Registered Electrician, Creative Input?</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to be included on the What's App group using the mobile number above.

<p>Summer Social Fri 12th July 2019 6-8pm:</p>
<p>Child/Family Name: _____</p>
<p>I would like _____ adult tickets at £2 and _____ child tickets at £1. I have included £_____ with this slip.</p>

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.co.uk to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations to charities by Amazon. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for smile.amazon.co.uk" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing amazon.co.uk account on smile.amazon.co.uk?

Yes, you use the same account on amazon.co.uk and smile.amazon.co.uk. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organisation to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk you need to select a charitable organisation to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.co.uk will result in a donation.

Can I change my charity?

Yes, you can change your charity any time. Once changed, your AmazonSmile purchases count towards your newly selected charity. To change your charity, sign in to smile.amazon.co.uk on your desktop or mobile phone browser and simply select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account."

What charities can I choose from?

Customers can select from a list of charities that are registered with the Charity Commission of either England and Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland and have enrolled in the AmazonSmile programme.

If I represent a charitable organisation, how can I learn more about enrolling my organisation in the AmazonSmile programme?

Go to org.amazon.co.uk to learn how to enrol your organisation to receive funds.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, VAT, and service charges, and less any rebates, returns, and bad debt. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organisations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Donations are made by Amazon and are not tax deductible by you.