



PTA News

Thank you to all who completed a questionnaire recently. The results of this will help us form future fundraising and spend opportunities. The complete, anonymous summary of results can be found on the website under the PTA menu. Your comments on communication and attending meetings have given us pause for thought.

- Many of you indicated that you would struggle to attend meetings even if clear notice was given although evenings was the most popular option. Monday and Thursday are the preferred nights.
- The majority of you have attended PTA events in the past and feel the number of events we run is appropriate
- The majority of you would be/are happy to volunteer to help at events
- The top 5 areas of preferred spend are: Outdoor/Nature, Sports and Fitness, Wellbeing, Music and Dance, Science.
- The traditional method of large committee led meetings does not lend itself well to our busy lives – a What's App group and small event based working groups are preferred
- Some of you would like to know more about how we use the PTA funds

Many of you were complimentary of the PTA's efforts but it is clear that now would be a good time to modernise the way that the PTA is structured. As a matter of regulation, the PTA is bound by a constitution, which has been in place since 1993. The committee is in agreement that we should adopt an up to date constitution based on a popular template and one which has already been approved by the charity commission. We are giving notice of an EGM to be held on Thursday 16th May 7pm at the same time as the next committee meeting to ask members to formally adopt the new constitution. A copy of this can be found on the website and is available from Mrs Lawson on Reception.

An EGM is a good time to elect new members onto the committee so if you feel you would be willing to participate in this way then please let me know in writing pta@irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk one week before the meeting so I can prepare the agenda. Your only responsibility is to make three committee meetings per year and vote on matters arising at that meeting.

There has been a perception in the past that parents who attend committee meetings or act as named roles e.g. Chair, are responsible for the organisation (and therefore the success or perceived failure) of the events held by the PTA. This is unfair on the people involved and I would like to reiterate that ALL of the children who attend Irthington Village School benefit from the PTA, this means that we should ALL be giving up a little bit of our precious time to make sure that the work is shared amongst all of us and not just the few.

In light of your comments we would like to propose that the committee holds three Open meetings a year (unless a special meeting is called) to vote on fundraising/spend etc. but the organisation of the events is carried out in a more informal manner. We understand that many of you are not interested in the running of the PTA, or organisation of events but I think that goes for most of us who either serve on the committee or manage to make meetings regularly. The offers of help are well received but it would be great if somebody could just say "I will do a stall and set it all up" or "who organises Air Ambulance? I will take on a village".

I think this was successful last year when a group met in the pub to organise the Christmas Fair, they took ownership of the stalls, gathered what was required and the event was successful with members of the committee feeling like they could enjoy it for a change. These groups would be fairly autonomous but still bound by the objectives of the association and a simple Terms of Reference document would clearly indicate the responsibilities, decision making and budget spend ability of the group. Whether this is on a class by class, social group or adhoc basis is not important. Getting it started is the most difficult bit you just need to decide which event you would like to help organise and get stuck in! You will have plenty of help to get you going.

There is a risk in adopting the above model in that the events will not be organised and communication will be non-existent but I think it is important for the future of the PTA that the committee and long standing volunteers do not feel the onerous responsibility of organising everything. It is up to all of us to make sure that this approach succeeds.

You indicated that a What's App group would be useful to help with communication and organisation so we have created a group to facilitate this. Please indicate on the slip your inclusion on this and your mobile number.

Diane Bryant

Mum of Izzy in Class 3

Contact:

Email: pta@irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk

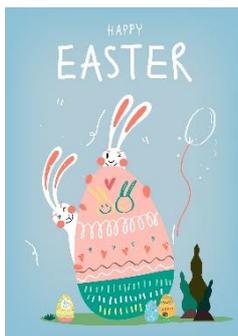
Web: www.irthingtonvillage.cumbria.sch.uk

FB: Closed group - Irthington PTA – please click on the button to ask to join

Catch me at pick up on top play or at events. If your child goes on the bus, just send them with a note to pass to the teacher or Mrs Lawson.

Upcoming Events

Easter Coffee Morning



Fri 29th March from 9am

Our popular annual Easter Coffee morning and egg hunt for the children. Timed this year to coincide with the last day of term so everybody should be in good spirits! Try your luck on the Chocolate Tombola, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and treat yourself to a tasty Easter Cake from the Cake Stall. New for this year is the secret Art auction where you will have the chance to bid on fantastic pieces of artwork created by the children.

We have a number of helpers organised for this event but are particularly looking for parents who have a number of years remaining at the school. Some of us will be leaving the school at the end of this year so are looking to pass on knowledge of this event. Please indicate on the slip on the reverse of this letter if you are definitely able to help out.

Air Ambulance Collection



Mon 29th April by 9am

Bags will be sent home in book bags at End of Term. Doorstep collection from Irthington, Laversdale, Newtown and Newby East - Sun 28th April from 10am. Alternatively drop bags on Monday 29th morning at the school. Please do not bring to the school before Monday 29th April as the school does not have room to store them.

We have a number of volunteers who have kindly delivered and collected from the villages for a number of years. Some of these parents will be leaving the school at the end of the year and are looking to pass their knowledge on. Please indicate on the slip on the reverse of this letter if you are able to help out.

Committee Meeting and EGM

Thursday 16th May 7pm

Summer Fair

Sunday 9th June 2pm

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 attend the EGM on 16 th May:
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can help at the Easter Coffee Morning
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can provide/bake some tasty treats for the Cake stall at the Easter Coffee Morning
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can help with the Air Ambulance collection and can help with delivery and collection Village or on the day:
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am happy to help organise an event Specific Event or any:
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to be included on the What's App group using the mobile number above.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please tick this box if you are happy to be added to a PTA email mailing list so we can keep you updated with what's being planned, ask for your ideas, and invite you to meetings and events.

Other Comments:	