

PTA NEWSLETTER



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chairperson of your Parent/Teachers association. By necessity, my appointment is a temporary one. My daughter Izzy B will be leaving the school this year and I have no other children there.

I was a little surprised to be told that my offer to serve for my remaining time at the school was agreed as nobody else had stood for chair.

I do not know if this is due to fear of taking on too much, or uneasiness at chairing a committee but I will use the time I have left to try to show parents that it is not that scary or work intensive.

It may be worthwhile explaining to some of the newer parents of the school the purpose and premise of the PTA.

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 communication between parents, staff and the village while working towards the common goal of a tight knit caring community. Members are entitled to attend meetings, vote on proposals and make suggestions for spending or raising funds.

All parents and staff are members of the PTA, by default. Your involvement can be from enjoying the events to helping organise the events to determining what the events are.

The PTA Committee always welcomes and encourages new members, to ensure there is a breadth of representative opinions from all year groups and to capitalise on the talents, skillsets and experience of our parents and staff.

The concept of the PTA has been in existence for generations to help fill the gaps that state funding is unable to provide.

As an example, in the past few years the PTA have been able to provide:

- Subsidising School Trips
- Improving and innovating in IT – the school were one of the first to have interactive touch screens.
- Subsidising activities such as
 - Willow Domes
 - Whizz Kids
 - Purchase of tricycles for early years
 - Purchase of books and teaching resources
 - Subsidise the Children's Christmas party
 - Purchase of the staging for the hall
 - Travelling pantomimes
 - Purchase of school science equipment
 - And so on....

The last few meetings have been poorly attended, and of more concern, many of the attendees were made up of class 3 parents who will leave in the next few years. Regulation states that committees have to have certain numbers to exist.

We are very grateful to the members who attended the recent EGM and I am pleased to report that the PTA has two vice chairs: Julie Storr and Ruth Coulthard, a new treasurer, Ryan Patterson, and Rachel Smithson has kindly offered to remain as Secretary. Many thanks to Rachel Smithson who has served as Chair for the last 17 months and to Leigh Rutherford, who has served as treasurer for 5 years. Both parents intend to continue attending meetings and helping at events.

As such, in preparation for my inevitable resignation at the end of the summer I am asking now for new members to step forward and help to ensure the survival of the Irthington Village School PTA. The meetings are incredibly important as most of the organisation of the events take place there. The phrase "Many hands make light work" has never been truer when it comes to a PTA. The more of you who help, the less we all have to do.

We are all juggling lots of balls, and I understand how hard it is to attend a meeting when we have children to put to bed and partners working late but please don't let this put you off helping with events or offering ideas for future fundraising/spend. If you can manage to get your input to us before the meeting, whether it is an email, a conversation with another parent, a note handed to your child's teacher or Mrs Lawson on reception, we are not fussy.

Most events run like clockwork because parents have been involved for years – from setting up tables, to serving coffee, to ensuring air ambulance collections happen. This knowledge needs to be passed along to the future champions of the school. Some parents offer their time at certain events, others at every event but all help is welcome.

Please could parents who are able to provide any assistance contact me at pta@irthingvillage.cumbria.sch.uk as soon as possible so that we can ensure that events listed below are not only successful, but also enjoyable for all. I realise that most of you will not necessarily know who I am so I will endeavour to find a moment when I can make myself known to you but I am usually found in the top play area at pick up time.

The events coming up in the next few months are:

Easter Coffee Morning: Friday 29th March 2019

We need helpers to serve tea and coffee, donations of cakes (do not need to be homemade), Easter hunt helpers. This is a regular event and is an easy one to assist with if you are planning on attending.

Air Ambulance: 29th April 2019

Existing members of the PTA already serve most of the villages but I am sure they will be unanimous in their cry for support with delivery and collection of bags. Bags to be distributed early April & collected Sunday 28th April after 10:00am.

I am also attaching the previous meeting minutes, the meeting started at 7pm and closed at 8:05pm, so just over an hour and we had to elect officers within that period too. Meetings normally happen on a Monday eve, but I am happy to move them around if that helps. We did trial morning meetings at 9pm, which are handy for drop off but may not be ideal for working parents. Let me know if you have any ideas.

I appreciate your time and reading to the end of this lengthy newsletter, hopefully the next ones will be short and sweet.

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.