



WARNHAM C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA

An Introduction to Your PTFA

Introduction

This information has been put together by the PTFA especially for you, as an introduction to the association and to give you better visibility of what we do and how you can get involved.

Why do we have a PTFA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a PTFA that's an integral part of the school community. Over the last few years, we have raised thousands of pounds, which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. Warnham PTFA exists to provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It's fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers.

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available. All families are automatically members of the PTFA when their child joins our school.

Here are '5 reasons why...' it's great to get involved.



"I love to see my mum in school helping at the fun events the PTFA run for us"

Emily Owens,
Fox Class



Being active in the PTFA not only improves your child's school but makes you an excellent role model. Research confirms what we've always known; when children see us involved in their school and learning, it encourages them to do their best.



"Through being a part of the PTFA, I've really got to know the school and have made new friends along the way"

Jess Harris,
Squirrel Parent &
PTFA Treasurer



Becoming an active part of the PTFA is a great way to meet other parents and teachers, whilst gaining an insight into the workings of the school. With parents and teachers striving towards the same goals, the team is instrumental in making a real difference in the school life of all children.



“The funds raised through the PTFA are invaluable to enriching our children’s education”

Shirley Kirby,
Headteacher



It raises welcome funds

In recent years, funds raised by the PTFA have helped to build the outdoor classroom, refurbish the new library and, most recently, the new Beehive area. The Wishlist has also helped to raise nearly £10,000 for new school materials since its inception in 2018!



“We love being an active part of our local community and have some fantastic support from local businesses, residents and our church”

Jo Prodger, PTFA
Secretary



It forges connections beyond the school gates

The PTFA build relationships with the local community – from events, sponsorships from local business, and mentions in local press. We are committed to ensuring that we play an active part in the wider community as well as enabling our children to contribute to and become responsible citizens in society.



“I’ve been able to use my photography and videography skills to help the school; it feels great to be able to make a difference”

Steve Peskett,
Otter Parent



It’s good for you!

Every parent has something to offer the PTFA, even though they may not realise it! Whether it’s being on the committee, helping out at events or organising meetings, your talents will be put to good use. As well as being enjoyable and satisfying, you can build your confidence and learn new skills too!

Role of the Committee

The committee members are elected at the PTFA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) to manage the association on behalf of the members. There are two types of committee member:

1. **Officers** – these have specific roles and currently consists of a Chair, Treasurer and a Secretary. At our next AGM we are hoping to add a Communications Secretary to the team to help manage all our media activity.
2. **Ordinary Committee Members** – these work alongside and support the Officers but do not have a specific named role.

All committee members have equal voting rights with the exception of the Chair, who has an additional casting vote, should this be needed.

Our constitution states that we will have a minimum of 3 members on our Committee. The Committee meet on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events.

The Committee also hold open PTFA meetings; any member can come along, find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved. Keep an eye on our Social Media and events page for details on forthcoming meetings.

Class Representatives

Our class reps play a very important role, providing a link between individual classes and parents, and the PTFA committee. This is a role we are hoping to grow more in the coming months to really start consulting with staff and making sure that parents' views are represented as fully as possible.

Volunteers

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the association. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at an event or wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets (just a few examples) would be invaluable. If you would like to join us please speak to a committee member, come along to our next meeting or email us – warnhamptfa@gmail.com. We will also keep our website updated with volunteering opportunities so don't forget to check it regularly.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is usually held in January and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members and discuss any changes to the team.

Support from Parentkind

Warnham PTFA is a member of Parentkind, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance to over 13,500 parent associations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Membership includes comprehensive insurance cover by Zurich Insurance plc for all our association run events and gives access to support and advice on running the association plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips

Parentkind also provide resources for Parents; if you would like to sign up to their Parent e-Bulletin please visit <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Signup>

How we raise money

Like most PTFAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

Summer Fair

Christmas Fair

Fireworks Night

We wouldn't be able to run these events without donations from parents - you can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes and auction lots or offers of services and skills.

We are also fortunate to have the Warnham School Wishlist which has helped to raise nearly £10,000 for new school materials since its inception in 2018!

How we spend the money we raise

The PTFA committee are responsible for deciding how our PTFA funds are spent. Usually, the School Leadership Team will contribute ideas of requirements which the Committee will then discuss and agree to fund if favourable.

We also invite input from parents too, so if you have an idea of something that would benefit all the students in the school, please do share it with the Committee. We can discuss it at a meeting and feedback.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Our Constitution commits the association to spending money on things that will benefit the children directly.

How we keep you up to date

Our newsletter is usually sent by email at least once per term; this includes information on upcoming events and dates for your diary, as well as details of the help we are looking for at larger events. Following an event, we always write to let you know how much was raised. When we reach our target, we tell you what the money will be spent on.

We have also recently formed an events website which will shortly be updated with our fundraising targets and this also provides the ability to buy tickets to events online. Please visit: <http://www.pta-events.com/warnham> for further information.

If you have access to Facebook, please join the “Warnham CE Primary School PTFA” Facebook page. You can also follow us on Twitter “@WPtfa”.

If you would like to join our PTFA WhatsApp Group, please let either a committee member or class representative know.

After the next AGM, we'll notify you of the elected Committee Members and Class Representatives for the next 12 months.

The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) of Warnham C.E. Primary School

Fact from fiction

When you support us, you're not just baking a cake, writing a cheque or giving up your time to volunteer. You're buying your child playground equipment to climb on at break time, sending them on outings to places they've never been, making new friends, building a community and helping to make your child's school even more brilliant.

WHAT IS A PTA?

A PTA (aka Friends group, Parents Association or something else) is an open and friendly group of parents and (depending on the type of group) teachers, extended family and members of the local community, working towards a common goal; supporting the education of the children at your school and strengthening the school community.

IT'S GREAT FOR THE KIDS (even if they don't realise it)

Studies show there's a direct link between parental involvement at school and how well children do. When they see us involved in their school and learning, it encourages them to do their best. Being active in a parent group not only improves your child's school, it makes you an excellent role model.



Everyone's invited

Now that your child has started at school, you're automatically a member of the parent association. How involved you choose to become is up to you. If you're passionate about making a difference and want to be involved in running the association, you might want to consider joining the committee. If you have ideas to share or want to know more about the group, head along to the next meeting.

It's good for you

The PTA is a fast way to get to know other parents and school staff. Feeling part of a community is a very real human need – and more practically, these friendships create a support network. Chances are there will be opportunities for you to learn new skills, and who knows, you may even discover some hidden talents!



IT WON'T TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE (unless you want it to!)

There are always plenty of opportunities to volunteer for your PTA. Whether you work full-time, part-time, or you're a stay-at-home parent, any time you can offer will be welcomed. PTAs are involved in a huge range of activities, all with varying time commitments, so how much or how little you choose to get involved really is up to you.

We all have something to offer

It doesn't matter how many children you have, how old you are, or what your background is; the skills that PTAs need are so diverse, everyone has something to offer. Of course, if you have book-keeping experience you could be a future treasurer, and anyone showing a creative flair might be asked to design a poster or two - but the most important skills you can bring to your PTA are enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in.

Parentkind
Member Association



JOIN US!

To get involved and find out more about what we do or how you could help, please get in touch. If you see us around school, come up and say hello!

warnhamptfa@gmail.com

WHY NOT COME ALONG
TO OUR NEXT MEETING?

Tuesday, 2nd March 2021 @ 7.30pm
via Zoom

