

# **WELCOME TO YOUR P.T.A.**

## **Introduction**

A very warm welcome to Nether Alderley Primary School.

This welcome note has been written by the PTA especially for you as a new family within our school. We realise it can be strange and a little nerve-wracking joining a school, and there always seems to be so many questions to ask! This note aims to tell you about our Parent Teacher Association, which is part of our school life.

## **Why Do We Have A PTA?**

We are very fortunate to have a PTA that is such an integral part of the school community. In its time, the PTA has raised many thousands of pounds, which have been spent on improving equipment and resources to enhance our children's education and the facilities in school in general.

But it is much, much more than just fundraising. The PTA 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. And it's fun!

All parents and members of the school can get involved if they want to, even if they only have a small amount of time available, and all parents are automatically members of the Association when they join the school.

## **The Committee**

Our PTA Committee consists of four people (Chair, Deputy-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary). We also have dedicated members, which make up the full Committee.

Chair – Nicola Bradley

Vice Chair – Caroline Harrison

Treasurer – Hayley Gilham

Secretary – Not appointed at this time

The Committee meet on a regular basis and our Annual General Meeting is held in September of each year. This is an opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about events run and funds raised, and how the money has been spent. It is also the occasion when we elect our new Committee.

## **How We Raise Money**

As in most schools, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are the Summer and Christmas Fairs, as well as our very successful annual Parent/Teacher Quiz Night.

We always try and respond to the children's requests and it is truly the icing on the cake to see them having fun at the events or enjoying using a piece of new equipment that the PTA has donated.

We are fortunate however to have other opportunities open to us to raise money. Donations are extremely important. These can be time, money, items for sale, donations for raffles or offers of services and skills etc.

### **On-Going Fundraisers**

We are also fortunate to have other opportunities open to us to raise money. We are members of various affiliate schemes which bring regular income in from larger businesses, without costing individuals a penny. Please take time to read the details at the bottom of this introduction as these represent the easiest ways for PTA funds to be boosted!

### **Charity Matched Giving**

Charity Matched Giving is very simple. Companies or businesses pledge to donate an amount of money which relates to the amount that an employee fundraises for our PTA. If you think that your employer has a matched giving scheme already in operation or if you would like some more information about setting up a scheme in your workplace, please talk to one of the PTA committee.

### **How We Spend The Money We Raise**

Decisions on how to spend the money we raise are made at our committee meetings. We always endeavour to spend our funds in ways that ensure, **all** our children benefit across all areas of the school and curriculum.

Usually, Mr Craven (our Head Teacher) will have a 'shopping list' of items that the school would like to purchase. This may be as a result of the children asking for something or resources to improve a particular area of the curriculum or school environment that may be linked to the School Development Plan. PTA funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building but in the main, the PTA funds are the 'extras' not provided by the school budget, that make our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Of course, there are times when we have larger projects underway that we need to save money for. Recently our 'special project' was to raise money to purchase new Clevertouch LED Touch Screens to improve the quality of learning within the classroom. However, whilst saving for these, we still managed to fund smaller items thanks to the generous support of our parents.

### **How We Get Information To You**

Regular newsletters and the noticeboard giving forthcoming dates for events and updates all assist the Committee in getting information and requests for help to parents. PTA news is also published within the school newsletter giving a round up of events.

### **How Can You Get Involved**

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through the PTA. Offering to help before events or at other times during the year is so valuable – it really is a case of 'many hands make light work'. It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you can't come into school. There are always little jobs that can be done from

home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. wrapping gifts, preparing raffle tickets, baking cakes etc. We really couldn't do without the unseen 'army of help' that exists in school.

You can of course if you feel able, volunteer to be a Committee member. You can attend the AGM and any meeting throughout the school year and give us your ideas for fundraising events – this is also the time to ask questions or voice your opinion. You can help by letting us know if you have any contacts or skills we could use – anything is valuable to use.

**Thank you for taking the time to read our note. We hope you now know a little more about your Parent Teacher Association, which we feel helps make the children's time in school so enjoyable.**

**The PTA Committee**

## **On-Going Fundraisers**

### **Labels4Kids**

A great range of name labels, gym bags & label tags. Just select Nether Alderley Primary School PTA from the drop-down list on the order form. The fund receives a donation & you reduce lost property!! Check out the creative designs at [www.labels4kids.co.uk](http://www.labels4kids.co.uk)

### **Yellow Moon**

A huge range of craft supplies & gifts, which are great for party bags. Simply quote: **SNE10942** whenever you order and the PTA fund will receive a donation. Just go directly to their website: [www.yellowmoon.org.uk](http://www.yellowmoon.org.uk)

### **Easyfundraising**

Raise funds while you shop!!

Register with <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/napspta>

Whenever you want to place an order with a retailer (e.g. John Lewis, Next, Amazon, Boots, M&S, iTunes, Interflora, Tesco, Thomas Cook, Dell) simply log onto the easyfundraising website find your retailer and follow the link through to their normal website. Your order is placed directly with the retailer as usual, with no extra cost to you. A proportion of your order value will be paid by the retailer to the PTA fund.

### **School Link Books**

School Link is brought to you by The Book People. They offer up to 85% off publishers' prices. It is not a book club, so you don't commit to anything, just make an order: Register at [www.schoollink.co.uk](http://www.schoollink.co.uk) with the Nether Alderley Primary School postcode SK10 4TR. Every order will earn book vouchers for the school to spend, plus you will save money on fab books!!

### **Bags 2 School**

Each year we organise two clothes collections from Bags 2 School. We let parents know and ask them to have a good old clear out and bring unwanted items into school in bin liners. The quality does not matter as we are paid by weight. If you have a clear out and want to get rid of any items throughout the year, please let us know and we can store the bags in the PTA shed so they are out of your way. It is great to promote this to family and friends as everyone gets rid of things. Our last collection raised £310 for the school, it is an easy way for us to generate funds if everyone gets involved.

What can be collected?

Clothing – adults, children’s including nightwear and underwear, bags/handbags/paired shoes/boots/trainers, belts, sheets, towels, blankets and curtains.

### **Recycling**

In the school reception there is a recycling box. We can recycle old mobile phones, ink cartridges and any unused leads (eg, kettle, dvd, video, telephone etc) all of which we recycle to raise money for the school. So please bear this in mind before throwing them in the bin.

**Finally - could your workplace be involved in the programme? We could generate even more funds for the school, as well as benefiting the business.**