



Stamford Green Primary School PTA 'Community enrichment through fun and fundraising'

Welcome to Stamford Green Primary School

This information has been compiled by the PTA especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. This letter aims to provide you with information about our *Parent Teacher Association (PTA)* which forms a major part of school life.

The Stamford Green PTA

We are fortunate at our school to have a PTA that is, and has been, an integral part of the school community for many years. Teachers and parents work very closely together to benefit the school and children. At our last Fireworks event in November, we had over 100 parent/carer volunteers alongside the staff and teachers to help run the event. So, we will be in touch nearer the time so you know how to volunteer for as little as thirty minutes. Through this collaboration the PTA has raised many thousands of pounds, which have been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's education experience and the school's facilities. Not all our activities are run as fundraisers. For example, we supply all children with ice lollies on sports day and crackers at Christmas for the children to enjoy.

Our PTA however, is about much more than simply fundraising. It creates closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring our community together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. Our aim is to make things fun, and as a result we have a thriving and growing community of PTA volunteers.

The PTA is extremely conscious of the welcoming and inclusive ethos of our school, and we try very hard when organising and planning events to respect this.

How we share information with you

We use a number of different channels to communicate with parents depending on the message or requests;

- We have a **Facebook Page** and this is very effective at letting you know what's happening and when. Please follow us at Stamford Green PTA.
- **PTA Bulletins** are usually sent home via the school's email system and are also uploaded to the school's website. These include information on forthcoming events and dates, plus requests for assistance when we are planning events. Following a PTA event, we let you know how much was raised, and which fundraising objective the money will be supporting.
- Short reminders or messages may be included in the **school weekly information email newsletter to parents/carers**.
- We upload the minutes of our PTA meetings to the **school website** so everyone can see what was discussed and what plans are being made for events.
- Many year groups have individual **Facebook or WhatsApp groups** where PTA information is shared.

- **We use PTA Events.** For ticketing and payment for PTA organised events. You will receive information on how to register on PTA Events as part of your induction to the school, and we strongly advise you to sign up to receive all the latest information.

How you can get involved

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

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through the PTA...

- Do you have any **relevant contacts or skills** we could use? Good DIY skills? Publishing, media, design or creative skills? Are you a dab hand on the BBQ? Everything is potentially valuable to us so please let us know.
- Offering to **help in planning activities or running events**; manning stalls, the bar or BBQ or supervising activities is so valuable. It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you cannot come into school. There are always jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. wrapping gifts, preparing raffle tickets etc. We really couldn't achieve what we do without the behind the scenes help that we receive.
- **Company matched giving.** This is very simple. Companies or businesses pledge to donate to a charity such as ourselves an amount of money relating to the amount that an employee donates or fundraises for us. We have been helped enormously in the past by this type of donation. If you think that your employer has a matched giving scheme already in operation, or if you would like some more information about charity matched giving or setting up a scheme in your workplace, please contact the PTA.
- **Online fundraising.** The following providers give the PTA cash back for every purchase made with no added cost to you:
 - *Online Shopping with EasyFundraising.* When you shop with one of over 3,000 shops and sites they give us a commission for your purchase. The commission varies between shops that include high street stores, supermarkets, travel companies, office supplies, utilities, finance and insurance.
 - Just visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk register Stamford Green Primary as your chosen cause and make sure you shop via the Easy Fundraising website each time you shop.
 - *Uniform Labelling*
 1. *Stamptastic:*
 - Tired of ironing or sewing name labels on to school uniform? Stamptastic offer a stamp to quickly and easily get the job done. They donate 30% commission.
 - Just visit www.stamptastic.co.uk and quote STAMFORD at the checkout!
 2. *Easy2Name:*
 - Offer a range of stick on, sew on and iron on labels. They donate 20% commission.
 - Visit www.easy2name.com and quote STAMFORD GREEN PRIMARY KT19
 - *Micro Scooters for Schools*
 - Buying a Micro Scooter for your children or perhaps even you? They donate 10% commission to the PTA when you shop online with them.
 - Visit www.micro-scooters.co.uk and quote School Name: Stamford Green Primary School School Educational Code:125066

How we raise money

Over the course of a year, we usually raise over £15,000. Like most PTAs, most of our funds are raised through the events that we run. In 2022/2023 we planned the following events at the school:

Autumn	Description	Spring	Description	Summer	Description
Stay and Play - YR	Reception Children and families stay after school for games	Cushion Club	Children's cinema club	Colour Run	An event for the whole school, with BBQ, drinks and live music.
Fireworks	Annual firework display at school	Quiz Night	Adult quiz night	Big Camp	Family camping night on our top field for Y2 families
Winter Wonderland	Christmas market, games, lights and Father Christmas.	Children's Disco	Easter disco for children in Y1 – Y6	Outdoor Theatre	Performance from an outside company for families. Bring a picnic.

We raise money in other ways too;

- We have a Christmas card scheme where each child can create a card and have it printed.
- We have a 200 Club whereby parents/carers can purchase a number between 1 and 100 which is entered into a monthly draw to win a cash prize.
- Each term we run a Second Hand School Uniform Sale where parents/carers can buy donated uniform at very low prices. Having a couple of spares is always useful!
- Online fundraising from parents/carers (see above).
- Donations from parents/carers are also extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes or offers of services and skills.

How we spend the money we raise

At our PTA meetings, in consultation with the school, the decisions on how to spend the money are agreed., so feel free to come along and join in the discussion.

We have a PTA Strategy and this is on our website so that everyone can see how we plan to spend the money raised from this years' events. We set short, medium and long term spending goals.

Recently short/medium term funds for smaller items have included author visits, newspaper subscriptions for the library and theatre workshops.

In the last few years as part of our longer term spending goals we have made a significant contribution of nearly £25,000 to fund for the build all the play equipment in the Exploration Areas and bigger play equipment on The Path of Adventures.

In addition to the strategy plans, Mrs Druce and the children will create a 'wish list' during the year of items that the school would like us to consider funding. The children are also frequently consulted about what they would like us to spend our funds on, usually through the School Council which comprises of elected pupils from each class. At times money will be directed for resources to improve a particular area of the curriculum or school environment. The PTA funds are 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.

The money we raise is usually spent quickly. That way, you can be sure that in supporting our school, your child/ren will feel the benefit, along with everybody else.

We are confident that we will have raised enough money this year to have achieved the short and medium term fund raising objectives and have a percentage of the long term library project funds banked for next year.

Class Representatives

As part of the PTA our Class Representatives undertake a very important role. There are usually one or two representatives per class who provide a link between individual classes and parents and the PTA committee. The support from class representatives is vital when it comes to organising our main events from selling tickets to organising rotas of help. We really could not manage without them.

If you are interested in joining the committee or acting as a class representative or PTA volunteer, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the Committee or Mrs Druce.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held at the beginning of the academic year and provides an opportunity for all parents/carers to come along and hear in more detail about the work of the PTA, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also the occasion when we elect our new committee members and class representatives.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We hope you now know a little more about your Parent Teacher Association (PTA). On behalf of all the pupils, we would like to thank you for your very valuable support, which enriches their learning experience and makes their time in school so enjoyable.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact the PTA if you have any questions. You can email (address is below) or leave a note in the black PTA box on the inside wall near to the school office.

We look forward to you joining our PTA community.

Kind regards,

Anne-Marie Carlin
Chair of the PTA