

PTFA update

It was great to see such a great group of people at our meeting on Wednesday evening.

Our PTFA is made up of long-standing members who have lots of experience from their many years supporting the school and our new members who bring new skills and experiences to the team. We have even had a Dad join the team recently which is great to see as he brings another perspective and helps Mr Wylde feel a little less outnumbered too!



The Willows PTFA are always looking for new members and volunteers and if you are interested in joining us on a regular or ad hoc basis, or you have a fundraising idea or special skill (e.g., face painting, accountancy, crafting, DJ, event organisation, baking, gardening, photography) that you can offer your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Everyone's inputs are always gratefully received, and ideas are always welcome. The PTFA generally meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

We are in a very privileged position now as, during the Covid pandemic, we didn't get much opportunity to spend the money that we had raised prior to that period, so at our recent meeting, Mrs Aris brought along a wish list for the school.

Along with our recent spending on the nativity costumes for Key Stage 1, we have agreed to continue to fund some items annually, such as book bags and water bottles for the children starting in Reception, prizes for Christmas parties, an end of year gift for each of the pupils in Year 6, costumes for school productions, special activities in class, and support for Theme and Carnival weeks.

At the meeting we also confirmed our commitment to the Worship Garden that is being created and agreed to help with some improvements to the Reception outdoor area and forest school. Going forward, we will be raising money to purchase some UV lights for the school hall which will enhance PE and discos, some pop-up gazebos and some lighting for the playground.

Thanks to all the parents and pupils (some of whom have since left the school) who helped us to raise the money that will contribute towards these items. Of course, our future commitments are dependent on our fundraising efforts which we do hope you will support.

The recent book sale raised £120. Thanks to all for the beautiful books that were donated which helped us to raise that money. The remaining books have been split between the school library and The Children's Book Project, a charity which provides books to children from under-resourced neighbourhoods.

Coming up is the Easter bingo (31st March) and the Race night (29th April) which we hope will be fun events that can help us raise money whilst giving everyone the chance to socialise. We will also be running our usual raffles at the upcoming school performances, and you will have seen the Kirkham Treasure Trail that should have arrived home in the children's school bags (entries to be submitted by Thursday 30th March please).

You have hopefully noticed the updated notice board in the playground. Here you will be able to keep up to date with the different events and activities we are planning for the term ahead.

We recognise that these are not the easiest times for us all and we thank you for your generosity as we raise funds to make a difference to the pupils and make school a fantastic place to be.

Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying.

If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thewillowsschoolptfa/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-e2

Thank you!