**A warm welcome to your PTA**

We'll keep this brief because we know you already have a lot to do before you join our school community. But, since we're a friendly bunch, we'd really like to introduce ourselves and tell you some key information about the PTA (that's Parent Teacher Association), how you can help us, and what's in it for you.

**Why do we have a PTA?**

Our group is called St Benedict’s PTA and has been running for the last 7 years.

The main function of our PTA is to support the school by raising as much money as we can to enhance, enrich and improve learning experiences for the children. We also provide those 'little extras' that make school memorable, such as school disco’s and gifts from Santa.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. **St Benedict’s 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. It is fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers.

The PTA is run by a committee who are all volunteers. We also have 2 class reps per year. The teachers are all involved too.

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 PTAwhen their child joins our school.

**The committee**

We currently have a 15 strong committee, headed up by a chair person. The Committee meet on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events.

We will introduce ourselves properly at the beginning of the school year. In the meantime, you can contact us via email at StBenedictspta@gmail.com.

**Class Representatives**

Our class reps play a very important role, providing a link between individual classes and parents and the PTA committee. The support from class reps 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. As a new reception parent, why not come along to the AGM in October, meet the committee and consider serving as a Class Rep yourself?

**How we raise money**

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are school disco’s, film nights, ladies shopping evening, quiz night’s and of course our summer fair.

**St Benedict’s PTA** is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them, at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online.

Sign up at **easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stbenedictspta/**

**How we spend the money we raise**

The PTA committee are responsible for deciding how our PTA funds are spent. Usually the School Leadership Team provides a ‘wish list’ of items that the school would like us to consider funding.

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.

Over the past couple of years we have helped fund: the purchase of new tablets and iPads, picnic tables, playground equipment, wet play equipment, glockenspiels and the provision of a school library and phonics areas. We also have an ongoing fundraiser to purchase a new piano for the school to coincide with the school’s anniversary in 2021.

**How we keep you up to date**

If you have access to Facebook, please join our **Electronic Noticeboard (www.facebook.com/groups/stbenhandforthparentnoticeboard).**

Each year group also has a WhatsApp group, run by the class reps.

We will also advertise events via email and on the school noticeboard, situated next to the entrance gate.

**How you can get involved**

Wewelcome 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 event or wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets (just a few examples) would be invaluable. Perhaps you have a professional skill you could help us out with? You don't have to come into the school; many of our volunteering tasks can be done from home. We hope to see you at meetings and events very soon.

**We look forward to welcoming you to our school!**