

HOW DO WE SPEND THE MONEY WE HAVE RAISED?

Decisions on what items are to be purchased from PTA funds are made during PTA meetings. Requests can come from parents, teachers or children. Normally all the items the PTA approve for purchase are the little extras that are not covered by school budgets. We always endeavour to spend our funds in ways that will benefit all our children across all areas of the school and curriculum.

The PTA does have ongoing commitments every year such as a book for every child on their birthday, £200 for each class to help with school outings, £500 towards a Year 6 leavers trip, a welcome gift for reception children, prizes for Easter and Christmas competitions. We also save up for larger projects such as the equipment on the lower field for a 'Hobbit' style village (to be built soon).

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 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 etc. We really couldn't achieve what we do without the unseen 'army of help' that exists in school. We have a textile recycling bin in the school car park and if you shop online, you can help raise funds by using easyfundraising.com.

You can of course if you feel able, volunteer to be a Committee Member. Or you can simply come along to the meetings and give us your ideas for fundraising events – this is also the time to ask questions or voice your opinion at the Parents Forum.

You can help by letting us know if you have any contacts or skills we could use – everything is potentially valuable to us.

COMMITTEE

Chair:	Sara Hill
Secretary:	Jo Budgen
Treasurer:	Claire Cuckow
Donations Coordinator:	Nicola Parham
Health & Safety:	Nickola Avis
Members:	Caroline Bates, Louisa Harrison, Lynsey Murray, Terri Hayre

Thank you for taking the time to read our brochure. We hope you now know a little more about your PTA. On behalf of all the children we would like to thank you for your invaluable support which enriches their learning experiences and makes their time in school so enjoyable.

Every year we need new parents to join the PTFA so if you'd like to get involved, in any way please contact us:

pta@kemsley.kent.sch.uk

Best Wishes and we look forward to meeting you at our events, from the PTFA Committee



help
welcome
parents
volunteer
association
teachers
dad
mum
fundraise
committee
friends

welcome

WELCOME TO YOUR PTFA A BOOKLET FOR NEW PARENTS

This booklet has been created by our Friends of Kemsley PTA especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. We realise it can be a little nerve-wracking starting at a new school and there always seems to be so many questions to ask. This booklet aims to provide you with information about our Parent Teacher and Friends Association which forms a major part of school life.

If you have any questions that remain unanswered, or you would like to get involved, please contact one of the committee members through our email (pta@kemsley.kent.sch.uk) or ask at the school office.

We are very fortunate at our school to have a PTA that is and has been such an integral part of the school community for many years. In its time the PTA has raised 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 our PTFA is about 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. It is fun too – as we are sure you will find out if you join us at one of the varied events throughout the school year.

HOW DO 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 the Christmas Fair, Easter Fun Days and the Summer Fair.

Other activities that we have organised this year included a Mothers' Day and a Fathers' Day secret gift shop, a book fair, Halloween Fun Day, adult Bingo and Quiz nights, refreshments for sports days and parents evenings and we created Christmas cards using the children's own art work. There is always something going on!

Donations from parents – of time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes or services and skills – are what determines the success of our fundraising activities. Even small donations make a big difference to us. We're always on the lookout for other good fundraising ideas too, so be sure to let us know if you have any suggestions - just send us an email or come along to a meeting.

THE COMMITTEE AND OUR MEETINGS

Our PTA committee is made up of parents and teachers. We currently have 5 elected parents holding committee positions. Members of the PTA give their time voluntarily for the benefit of every child in the school. All parents and members of the school community 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 their children join our school.

The PTA meet on a regular basis usually twice per half term, with smaller working groups meeting as necessary to organise the larger, more time-consuming events. Any parent is welcome at PTA meetings, and we are particularly keen to meet new parents. Meeting dates are advertised in the school newsletter and via the school text message service. They usually take place in school in the evenings. Our Annual General Meeting will be at the beginning of the academic year and this is an opportunity to come along and hear in more detail about events run, funds raised and how the money has been spent. We will also elect our new committee at this meeting.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PARENTS FORUM

We have PTA class representatives – 1 or 2 reps per class. They provide a link between individual class parents and the PTA committee. We hope that the support from class reps will help when it comes to organising our main events. They are also a way of feeding comments, questions or concerns about school life into the Parents Forum. This is run at every PTA meeting and issues discussed here will be taken to appropriate senior staff for attention. Check the class door for your class reps' names.

HOW DO WE GET INFORMATION TO YOU?

All PTA letters are sent home via your child's book bag. We aim to distribute a PTA Newsletter every full term. Please sign up to our mailing list so that we can reach you quickly and easily (send an email to pta@kemsley.kent.sch.uk)

COMMUNITY LINKS

We have, over time, developed strong links with the local community and are always well supported by both residents and businesses. Many of our local shops and amenities are very generous in their donations of raffle prizes.

We are extremely grateful to these community members as they make a huge difference to our fundraising efforts. If you think your workplace could offer us time, services or raffle items, please do let us know.