

Dear Parents and carers,

My name is Liz and I am the new (ish) chair of the PTA. I wanted to write to you to introduce myself and share a bit about what we do.

When my first child started school, quite honestly I didn't have a clue what the PTA did. The term PTA made me think of something boring, hard work and full of hierarchy. I knew they did "stuff" but I didn't really know what.

Something in me had me attend a meeting. Perhaps curiosity, perhaps a desire to meet a few other parents, even make friends? so I went along. What I found was a bunch of other mums (and a few Dads) just like me who want to create a great environment for our kids.

So what is the aim of our PTA - It's simple. To raise cash to provide our children with cool things to do at school, to enhance their learning experience, whilst having fun along the way and boosting community spirit and connection. It's important to remember that what the school gets from the Department of Education is to support the curriculum. It's not for discos, taking part in the carnival, or summer BBQ's.

What did we do last year? - The PTA organised the first halloween disco since pre-covid. It was a really fun night with the kids dancing to DJ Rich and parents enjoying the bar. Congratulations on all the fancy dress outfits. We then organised the Christmas Fayre. Kid met Santa, played games, bought a few presents and perhaps ate a few too many sweets!

In the spring summer term, the PTA organised the Glow in the Dark disco, funded an Easter Egg hunt, brought everyone together to take part in Otley carnival (where our school came second place for our incredible effort as an *"Ofsted Outstanding English Country Garden"*) and we held the annual Summer BBQ.

I am incredibly proud to say that we got great feedback from these events and the funds raised helped towards the costs of school trips for the children to Stickman, Ilkley Literature Festival, Harlow Carr, Chevin Forest and the Y6 Residential. We also funded new netball nets for the playground, prizes for the DT challenge, carnival costumes craft and the Y6 leavers event. Thank you all for your support, contributions and helping hands last year!

Come to the next meeting - Our first PTA meeting of this term will be on Friday 29th September, 7.30pm at The Roebuck. All parents are invited. We'll be discussing the plans for this year, how we can support the school and logistics for events this term. We'll enjoy a drink together afterwards. It's not a big commitment to be on the PTA. I am a busy, working parent myself and I understand that our time is precious and limited. It would be great to see a few new faces here and have a helping hand at our events. We'd love to hear you ideas and feedback too.

If you feel like you would like to join in on the fun, please come along on the 29th. I would love to see you there.

Liz Berry
Chair, Askwith PTA