

Friends of Rye Community Primary and Pugwash Nursery (PTA)

PTA, Rye Community Primary School, The Grove, Rye, TN31 7ND

friends@ryeprimary.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/893351917417006/>



21 November 2018

Dear parents and carers,

A very big thank you to all who completed the survey, in total 51 people answered it, that's fantastic!

We are very excited to see so many parents committing to join the PTA's effort to offer great events, fundraise and help the school offer our children fun and rich experiences, through educational visits, the development of the outdoor area and much more. Here is what we have learnt from your answers:

- **Timing of the meetings:** The majority of respondents have asked for the meetings to take place during school hours. The timing with the most votes was 2:00pm. We will make sure that we use your feedback and that the PTA meetings, including the AGM take place at 2pm. If working parents are keen to contribute and organise projects but are only able to meet later in the evenings, please do get in touch with us and we will try to arrange additional meetings.
- **Volunteering with the PTA – please join us:** Overall, the respondents to the survey committed to volunteer with the PTA for over 500h! They are keen to help on all the projects that were proposed in the survey, with most people happy to help during the school fairs (30 people), but also 21 people happy to help with fundraising, 18 with the forest school, 17 with the school library etc. We are very much looking forward to the PTA starting to work again and to making a positive contribution to the school. We will now contact everyone who has left their contact details. Some of the respondents did not leave their contact details though. If you are keen to help, please email the PTA at friends@ryeprimary.co.uk or join our PTA supporters Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/893351917417006/> and let us know what roles, events and projects you would like to help with: PTA officer, school fairs, school library, outdoor area, forest school, fundraising, sal's shoes, baking, other events and projects. Only the PTA officers will have access to your contact details and they will only use them for PTA related communications. Please be assured that your contact details will not be passed on to any third parties without your permission. You shared many ideas of projects and activities with us, for example, kids craft fair, sponsored swim, mini Christmas bake sale getting the kids to sell their wares etc. We are keen for parents and carers to come forward and lead on these to make them happen.
- **Feedback and comments:** We also had some feedback which showed us that we need to be clearer and communicate what we do in a better way.
 - o Use of funds by individual classes. Someone advised us to give more ownership of our contributions to the individual classes, which is what we do. We give each class a classroom budget of £150 per year. They can also earn extra funds with the attendance rewards. The teachers then talk to their class and think about how to best use their funds, to help with a school trip for example, in relation to their class topic. They then send us a PTA fund request for the PTA to approve.
 - o PTA newsletters and communication. People also asked us to be more visual and to explain more what we do, with more newsletters, posters etc. For the last two years, we have published between two and three letters per year, each explaining our remit, listing the projects we are working on, asking for help etc. We also call for help on the Facebook pages per year group managed by the PTA. We understand that it would be better to be seen more but the PTA being made up of only a handful of people, this has limited what we have been able to do. We are just normal parents and volunteers, doing this on top of organising the fairs,

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projects, fundraising, managing the Facebook pages, and also on top of our normal day jobs, parental duties etc. We are keen to recruit one (or more) person to help us with communication and marketing. If you are able to help, please email us at friends@ryeprimary.co.uk

- PTA accounts. Another parent said that she felt we needed to share our accounts, how much we raise and how much is spent on what. We are happy to do this as our treasurer always has this information ready. This was on the agenda for the planned AGM in October, as mentioned in the letter sent to parents. As the AGM could not be held, we now share the accounts for the 2017/18 year below:
 - Opening Balance £3,191.05
 - Closing Balance £3,348.74
 - Raised/Received £3,797.75
 - Spent £3,640.06 = £2,596 spent by classes, rest on projects e.g. paints for wall, lottery fee, playground signs, raffle tickets
 - However £413 unspent Class Award funds
£330 unspent Attendance Allowance funds
 - £157.69 more raised than spent, but if all awards taken then loss of £585.31
 - We have received £1,000 funding from Rye Community Shop for Forest School/ project but will need to match £1,500 of PTA raised funding
 - £1,102.56 and £1,105.06 profits from Christmas and Summer fetes last school year compared to average of £1,700 and £1,900 two years prior
- School fairs. One criticism received was '*School fairs and fetes are not widely attended due to where there are and also the fact that it is as far removed from a summer school fete as you can get. (...) It all needs a complete overhaul to turn it around to make it a proper summer fete and fun day*'. And we had comments on the day regards disappointments of the long queues and drinks not being cold etc. – indeed what was planned and possible was far from what we were able to deliver. We had many more fun ideas ready for the summer fair last year but unfortunately, we had to cancel three stalls on the day from lack of volunteers. We were working from 8.30am that day without a break, but simply didn't have enough help to do what we wanted. Apart from the effects on the experience of attendees we also raised less money than usual due to the queues. We'd love to offer more fun activities and very much look forward to hearing and realising all the fantastic ideas that no doubt fresh eyes will bring to make the events less stressful and more fun. With the extra parents and carers who are able to help (even if it's for just an hour or two – we'd love to also have some relief support/a rota so we could each spend an hour with our children at events) we can make the event much more fun!

***** CHANGE OF DATE! *** NEW AGM DATE ON THURSDAY 14th FEBRUARY AT 2PM *****

The officers of the PTA feel optimistic that the PTA will be able to resume its activities soon after receiving great feedback in the online survey and knowing that many more parents and carers are now willing to give us a hand. Hopefully, the last couple of months will have helped parents and carers realise that the PTA needs support so that it can carry on its essential role in supporting the school. Listening to the advice received by various parents and in agreement with the school, we are now proposing **Thursday 14th February at 2pm** as the new AGM date. It coincides with the February parent consultation and in the past, this has helped with attendance. Please come and join us then!

We look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on 14th February,

Best wishes,

Sophie, Colleen and Caroline, PTA officers