

Hello from the new Handcross Primary School PTA

- Raising money for the school, and making memories with our children -

As you may have already heard, Handcross Primary School has a new PTA (Parent and Teachers' Association), and a committee has now been elected. I wanted to introduce myself and let you know a little bit about what we will do, what we hope to achieve and let you know how you can help, if you want to.

Who are the PTA?



Jo-Anna Burnell
Chair of the PTA



Kirstie Wickens
Vice Chair of the PTA



Claire Jones
Treasurer



Amelia Steenkamp
Secretary

As a parent/carer of a child or children at Handcross Primary, you are automatically a member of the PTA, however, about 12 parents have already expressed an interest in becoming a Committee Member, which is fantastic! The Committee Members will help to make decisions within the PTA and help to organise fundraising events. They've also demonstrated a commitment to support the raising of vital funds for our school. Thank you very much to everyone who has volunteered to take on this crucial role.

Why should Handcross Primary have a PTA?

Schools now, more than ever, are faced with shrinking budgets and growing class sizes, not to mention high standards for teacher and student performance. Rightly or wrongly, schools need the support of families and the community. Our PTA will raise money for the school, so that they can buy resources and equipment to support the children's learning and wider experiences at school. I will be asking Mrs Bondonno to consult with her staff and provide us with a Wish List, so that we can target our fundraising accordingly, but in general, the PTA will help the school by:

- * increasing family engagement and volunteerism - building a community spirit and organising events;
- * qualifying for grants and awards to support our school;
- * communicating with families effectively;
- * partnering with other community organisations;
- * enhancing fundraising efforts to benefit all our children.

What you can do to help

There are many ways you can help the PTA, whether you have lots of time to offer or not. Please join the PTA Committee if you would like to be more involved, but if you can't commit to this, please look out for things you can do less frequently (e.g. baking for a cake sale, helping to sell raffle tickets, promoting events to family and friends, donating items for prizes, running a stall at a summer fair etc). The most important thing you can do to help though, is simply turn up and join in the fun! Look out soon, for information regarding our first fundraiser. (By the way, we are starting small and easy...we don't want to bite off more than we can chew!)

We are all families who want the best for our children, and the PTA is one way we can have a direct impact on our children's fleeting time at Primary School. Simply by building on our community spirit, sharing ideas and ways to raise money for the school - and by fostering an enthusiastic attitude towards the PTA's plans and efforts - we can make a big difference to the lives of our children whilst they're at Primary School.

I hope that you'll always feel that the Committee are approachable and willing to listen to your ideas and feedback (that's certainly our intention). Talk to us! We are all in this together. Thank you in advance for your support and positivity.

Yours sincerely,

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