

ELSWORTH PRIMARY PTA

Elsworth School Friends Association

*'We wish you a very warm welcome to
Elsworth C of E Primary School
and we look forward to greeting you in
September!'*



In this handout, we aim to provide you with some starter information about your Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA are responsible for organising many of the social events throughout the school year, including the Christmas, Easter and Summer Fayres as well as lots of smaller fundraising events like cake sales, discos, movie nights, mementos, grow your own and special events (wreath making, guest speaker evenings, Christmas Shopping evening to name a few).

The PTA and the events organised are a great way for you as a new parent and your child to meet other families, immerse yourselves into school life, make new friends and most importantly have fun together.

We have endeavoured to answer many of the questions you might have, but if you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our committee members or contact us on either of our two email accounts elsworth.pta@gmail.com or elsworth.ptatreasurer1@gmail.com

Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate to have a PTA that is, and has been, an integral part of the school community for many years. With school budgets becoming increasingly tight, it is through the efforts of the PTA that the school can purchase additional resources to enhance learning. Thousands of pounds are raised each year and spent to enrich our children's educational experiences and the school's facilities. The PTA is about much more than simply fundraising, it exists to provide closer links between home, school, and the wider community. It is an excellent way to bring staff, parents, and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. The events and their organisation are another way to make friends, have fun and spread cheer. All parents, carers and members of the school community are welcome to get involved in whatever capacity they can manage.

How do we spend the money we raise?

Expenditure of valuable funds is discussed with school staff, children, and the committee. Our Constitution commits the PTA to spend money on items that will benefit the children directly; thus, making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Here are some of the events and equipment that has been funded by the PTA over the last few years:

- Purchase of book bags for new starters
- Contribution towards the cost of the Phonics resources for Early Years and Key Stage 1
- Contribution towards the cost of the Key Stage 1 trip to Church Farm

- Contribution of £5,000 towards the purchase of new laptops
- Purchase of an iPad charging trolley
- Purchase of Key Stage 1 playground play equipment
- Replacement carpets in several classrooms
- Reinstatement of the playground markings
- Purchase of mobile cooker to be used in the classrooms
- Purchase of a mobile sound system for use both at school and off site
- Purchase of planners/homework diaries for Key Stage 2 children
- Contribution towards the cost of the Coach for Y5 and Y6 to participate to Young Voices at the O2
- Purchase of Y6 leavers Hoodies
- Crackers for the Christmas lunch
- Funding the coach for the school panto
- Purchase of the gifts for the schools 70th birthday



We have been asked to raise funds this year to help contribute to the KS2 changing room facilities.

How do we raise the money?

We hold regular events throughout the year such as:

- **Cake/Sweet Sales:** These are held normally once a term, usually on a Friday. Each class takes it in turns (starting this year the class that raises the most will get a special prize) and we ask parents to support in providing the cakes - homemade or shop brought. The kids love bringing small change and spending their money.
- **Christmas Fayre:** This usually takes place after school in the hall and it gets everybody into the festive mood. There are refreshments, games, crafts for the children and external stalls to enjoy. The children even get the chance to visit Father Christmas in his grotto.

- Easter Fayre: An afternoon event consisting of an Easter treasure trail, refreshments and a cake/sweet sale and various Easter activities. Again, it is another social fun event for both children and parents.
- Summer Fayre: This event is held towards the end of the school year. We have a licenced bar, BBQ, bouncy castle, face painting, demonstrations, games, and lots of stalls. It is a lovely, relaxed event and a good chance to sit back and spend time together before the end of the school year.
- Fundraising evenings: September 2023 we had an exciting evening organised with an Evening talk with Lucy Lewis (the first female bomb disposal officer) These are a great fun and social events which bring the school and local community together.
- School Discos: This year has seen us re-launch after an after-school disco to much success, enjoyment, and dancing from all who came. We will be running these with the aim of 1 a term.
- Bunny Hop- This has been re launched at school after a few years break. The children loved bouncing like bunnies!!
- Movie Nights: We are planning to restart these, normally they have been held once every half term. Movie Night takes place in the school hall straight after school. We show current films and old favourites. Sometimes the children vote from a choice of films.
- Cash for Clothes collection: Gather your second-hand clothes, shoes accessories etc..., leave them bagged outside the school and help us to raise funds for the school through your donations.
- Other fundraising activities have included an evening wreath making, home growing competitions (sunflowers, pumpkins and tomatoes), Mothers Day crafting, fill a pumpkin, second hand uniform and book sales, Christmas Shopping Evening and we are investigating holding get active competitions.
- We are always looking for fun new ideas to add to our fundraising. Any ideas are welcomed.





How can I get involved?

We rely strongly on volunteers to make these events a success, therefore we ask parents for their support by getting involved in the PTA. This might be in one of the main positions (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer), a general committee member, volunteer or just by contacting us with ideas for fundraising events. Often, we ask for support for our events by providing donations for the events such as raffle prizes as well as helping/providing items for the events; whether it be a half an hour slot on a stall, helping with preparations and/or helping to set up or clear away after events. All help is gratefully received.

Bringing fresh, new ideas to us will be much valued. It doesn't matter if you only help on an occasional basis, please do connect with us. We have a PTA WhatsApp group which everyone is welcome to join, whether on the committee or not. We understand that many new parents have little ones and that it can be tricky to help at events. If you are unable to offer your time at events, please remember there are always jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. wrapping gifts, preparing raffle tickets, researching and buying supplies etc. We really could not achieve what we do without the behind the scenes help that we receive.

If you feel that you would like to get involved with your PTA, please chat to a member of the PTA or contact us by email via elsworth.pta@gmail.com or elsworth.ptatreasurer1@gmail.com

The PTA also has a Facebook page that we very regularly update:

<https://www.facebook.com/ElsworthSchoolFriendsAssociation/>

