



## Wessex Gardens PTA

We'll keep this brief because we know you already have a lot to do before you join our school community. But, since we're a friendly bunch, we'd really like to introduce ourselves and tell you some key information about the PTA (that's Parent Teacher Association), how you can help us, and what's in it for you.

### Why does the school have a PTA?

Our group has been running for just over 1.5 years. We're a lively group of volunteers, many of whom were active within school life prior to the launch of the PTA.

Children spend the majority of time of the day during term time at school. **The happier they are at school, the better!** The main function of the PTA is to improve the educational lives of the children at Wessex Gardens. Social events, such as last year's disco, have a lasting impact on how children perceive being at school and help children to form new friendships with those they wouldn't normally find themselves interacting with. A friendly, community mentality throughout the school translates into a happier, more welcoming space where children feel comfortable and safe, where children can feel ready for learning.

One more function of our PTA is to support the school by raising as much money as we can to enhance, enrich and improve learning experiences for the children. We also provide those 'little extras' that make school memorable, such as Summer Fairs, discos, charity fund raising, ice cream sales and second hand uniform sales.

We also exist to bring the communities of school and home closer together because it makes sense for parents to be involved in the life of their chosen school.

Lastly, we're here for the simple reason that we want to get together socially, meet new people and have fun!

The PTA is run by a committee who are all volunteers. Miss Williams, this year's Parental Engagement Lead, is also part of our PTA and will regularly be involved in meetings.

We might sound like an abstract group of people, but we're parents, carers, friends and allies - just like you. Not so long ago, we were new too.

## What the PTA funded with money from previous events:

We always try to respond when asked to help the school, and after the work is done, it's so rewarding to see the children enjoy new resources and equipment provided by the PTA.

What did we buy?	Who for?	What were the benefits?
Funded the 2017 and 2018 leavers' yearbooks	Year 6	Children were able to have a place for all their Wessex Gardens memories, as well as somewhere for friends to write messages.
New playground markings	The whole school	These provided opportunities for more imaginative play for all children at school during playtime, and supported class learning objectives through enhanced outdoor space.
Table tennis table	KS2 playground	The children have loved having some more equipment to play with during playtime!
£50 for each class to update and improve their book corners	The whole school	Our book corners are looking more interesting and inviting. The children love spending time in them and can't stop reading!

## Keeping up-to-date with our activities and events:

<b>Book bags</b>	We put flyers, sponsor forms and notices in book bags.
<b>Newsletter</b>	We have a section in the school newsletter, which is sent every Friday via email. It is also available on the school website and in the school office.
<b>In person</b>	We will also let you know if there are any events coming up that you might be interested in.

## What are we raising money for next?

With the extreme budget cuts in place at the moment, our schools and the children's educations are suffering. We would like to do all that we can to ensure **your child** gets all the support and resources they need to succeed throughout their educational career at Wessex Gardens Primary and Nursery School.

## How can I help my child more?

The more people become involved, the more we can achieve, the more we can help your children to have an improved school-life, and the easier it will be.

**Even if you have younger children at home, or only a small amount of time, could you come to a meeting, help set up an event, serve food or design a poster? Perhaps you have a professional skill you could help us out with? You don't have to come into the school; many of our volunteering tasks can be done from home.**

# Come to our AGM!

**Day: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Time: 9am**

**Location: the small hall in Wessex Gardens Primary and Nursery School**

## WHY?

We are going to be voting in our new committee members, as well as getting a chance to know all our lovely new members! If you're interested in being part of our PTA, this would be an ideal starting point for you. We can get to know you, you can get to know us, and we can begin to get some ideas together for how we can work together to **improve your child's educational experience!**

## WANT TO BE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE?

If you are interested in being part of our Executive Committee over the next year, please do get in touch asap! We will be voting in our new committee members at the AGM and we look forward to working with you all!

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

<b>Chair</b>	To ensure that the business of the PTA is conducted in accordance with the wishes of the representatives of the PTA and to uphold the constitution of the PTA.
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	To support the chair in all aspects of their role, to ensure that the business of the PTA is conducted in accordance with the wishes of the representatives of the PTA and to uphold the constitution of the PTA.
<b>Secretary</b>	To deal with all the correspondence that the PTA receives and helps the Chair ensure that committee meetings run smoothly. As well as dealing with correspondence, following a committee meeting, the Secretary will need to make bookings and other arrangements for events. Confirm arrangements made by telephone in writing (by letter or e-mail). The Secretary will make arrangements for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and help the Chair prepare the annual report.
<b>Treasurer</b>	To maintain up-to-date records of all PTA financial transactions.
<b>Fundraising coordinator</b>	This role will requires coordination with the events coordinator to assign fundraising value to the events being put on - not all events will be for fundraising, but those that are will need to be well advertised as far as the purpose of the fundraising and eventually the outcome.
<b>Events coordinator</b>	This role will require planning and coordinating events with the school administration - to make sure space for the events is available and PTA is supported with teachers' or TAs' assistance, as needed.
<b>Summer Fair coordinator</b>	This role will require a dedicated person who takes the initiative and begins the ground work for the event several months in advance - advertising, stocking up on prizes, planning activities, recruiting individuals to run activities, drumming up support for the event. Of course this person would be in charge of a group of individuals and would be both doing tasks and delegating tasks to others, but they would be the central person in charge of everything coming together.
<b>Communications Coordinator</b>	The individual in this position will be responsible for keeping Wessex Gardens up to date with PTA news and upcoming events through school-wide sms and newsletter articles.

### **WANT TO BE PART OF THE PTA BUT CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE AGM?**

That's fine! Please do let us know which position you are interested in, or if you are just interested in being part of the team, and we'll make sure your name is put in!

## **Contact details**

We'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to get in touch with any of the committee members if you have questions, or you can email the PTA at [parentsofwessexgardens@gmail.com](mailto:parentsofwessexgardens@gmail.com).