

PTFA Newsletter

Spring 2021

Welcome to our Newsletter!

With lambs in the fields, the sun appearing more frequently in the sky, and the easing of the restrictions we've all been living under, we at AMF PTFA are feeling a definite sense of hope and optimism about the coming months. We are looking forward to a summer that feels much more 'normal', where we can plan activities, see our families, and enjoy all that Alston Moor has to offer. So look out for us getting many of our old, and some new, activities underway very soon!

Changes at the PTFA

First of all, we would like to confirm that we have formally changed from a PTA to a PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association). This constitutional change was confirmed in our meeting of 25/02/21. We would particularly like to thank all the non-committee members who attended that meeting, in order to help us make this change.

Becoming a PTFA will allow us to draw members from a wider base; you will not need to be a parent or belong to the school staff in order to get involved. Anyone over the age of 18 who would like to help out with our activities, or who might even consider joining the committee, is welcome. Please use the contact details at the bottom of this newsletter to get in touch.

Easter Competitions

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter! Well done to everyone who entered our egg painting and Easter bonnet competitions – there were some fantastic entries and lots of prizes awarded.



Egg Decorating Winners

Nenthead Primary School: Rory in Reception

Alston Primary School:

Pre School: Daisy

Reception: Fletcher

Year 1: Isla

Year 2: Josie

Year 3: Freya

Year 4: Danny

Year 5: Lewis

Year 6: Connor



Easter Bonnet Winners & Judge's Comments

Thank you very much to Simon Danby for judging.

Early Years: Logan Paisley. "That Suffolk sheep had me fooled - well, nearly!"

Key Stage 2:

1. Freya Paisley. "For madness over & beyond the call of duty!"

2. Philippa Higgs. "I like the bow tie on the ear - thinking of taking up that fashion myself."

3. Darcy Wilkin. "Nicely homemade."

4. Danika Humber. "Absolutely charming!"



Congratulations to you all, and we hope to see more brilliant examples of your creativity in our future competitions!

2021-22 Projects

Although the events of last year made fundraising challenging, thanks to community participation in our Christmas initiatives we are able to continue supporting our schools with their efforts on behalf of our children. This year we are involved in the following:

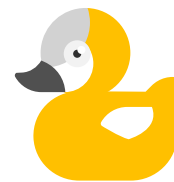
- Running Easter competitions
- Providing attendance prizes to those who achieve 100% attendance each term
- Contributing to the Year 11 leavers' event
- Book Buzz for Year 6-7 pupils
- Contributing to the Year 6 end of year trip

- We are also looking at grants that may enable us to support the building of a student shelter for Samuel King's School

We still have some of our lovely tea towels left, and we have now reduced the price to £3 – get one while stocks last!

Upcoming Events

- We are very excited to once again hold our annual duck race! This fantastic event, which sees 1000 yellow ducks racing down the river, will take place at **12 noon on Saturday 10th July**. There will also be games and a barbeque. We invite all members of the community to come along, and try to pick the winning duck! More information to come, and if you are available to help on the day, please get in touch!
- We are planning to have a stall at the Alston Gala on **Saturday 21st August**.
- Over the next few months, we are hoping to put together an 'Alston Moor Recipe Book', reflecting the tastes, traditions and innovations of the people living on Alston Moor. If your family has a favourite recipe for something either savoury or sweet, old or new, please send it to us! We would love to have contributions from as many people as possible.
- The PTFA Fireworks Event will return this year on **Friday 5th November**. More details to come!



A Spring Craft Activity

If your children are stuck for something to do over the half term holiday, why not have a go at the ancient art of flower pressing? You don't need an expensive or fancy press – a heavy book or directory will do – and the results can be used to decorate cards, start a flower collection, or make beautiful works of art.

The Natural History Museum has an excellent guide, including a video, on how to do this at home:

https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-press-flowers.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjw7pKFBhDUARIsAFUoMDao-omrxdG46O5PQxD1D1dDVkNs4RKgdgy4rzzbNBffM0uszSDxfoaAmymEALw_wcB.

All you need are books, newspaper (or ordinary plain paper works too) and glue, plus whatever you will need to make your final card or piece of art. The NHM page also has some good advice on how to find flowers which are suitable to pick and press.



Picture from bhg.com.

Get Involved

- We have a PTFA Group on Facebook which we would welcome you to join. This will be updated with our news and planned activities:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/307315329632869>
- We also have a page on the Alston Moor Federation website:
<https://www.alstonmoorfederation.org.uk/pta/>
- Our email address is amfpta@alston.cumbria.sch.uk
- Please get in touch with your feedback/suggestions/contributions.
- We are very keen to welcome new volunteers to the PTFA. Whether you'd like to join the committee, or volunteer to help at individual events, please get in touch with us. Your support is very welcome.
- We'd also like to ask any local businesses who think they can help with our events or projects, to get in touch. We are always keen to support local business in our efforts.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone in our community for their support of AMF and the PTFA's activities over the last year. Hopefully, this summer will bring the return of opportunities for us to come together as a community, and to support our schools and each other. We hope to hear from you, or see you at one of our events!

