



Hi all,

As we ease into the rhythm of summer term (sun where are you?) and say a brief farewell to Gemma as she goes on maternity leave, I thought it was a great opportunity to touch base on the PTA. We've had a busy few weeks. Last week about 40 Chisenhale kids took part in the Mini London marathon, between then raising over £2,000 for the school; and our now annual Eid event magnificently organised by Hafsa (mum of Sumeya (Yr 4), Sara (Yr 1) Sireen (Nursery), raised an incredible £664!

For me, however, while fundraising is ever more important each year (see Gemma's letter about school budgets last week); what is equally important is fostering a beautiful sense of community in our little school. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and I think some of our recent events have served to remind me of how lucky we are to live in our little Chisenhale "village". Our Eid event was a perfect celebration of the

diversity of that village; and the recent unveiling of artwork and new equipment in the Early Years playground the perfect example of what it can achieve.

The name PTA (*Parents & Teachers Association*) has gained a bad rep over the last few years (I blame BBC's *Motherland* 😊); but like it or not, each and every parent and/or carer Chisenhale is automatically a member - it's not an opt-in kind of situation. What you can choose though is what role you play. I completely understand how busy our lives are. But we ask everyone to contribute what they can: money, time, ideas.

For those of you who simply don't have time but want to help we've set up a Justgiving account where you can make a regular monthly donation and know you never have to bake for a cake sale! For those who are great with research and filling out forms, we need a team of grant researchers to support extra curricular learning opportunities. And for those who can give some time in any way we'd love help running events (no experience necessary).

Next PTA meeting is at 9am next Friday 3rd May in the schoolhouse. See you there or meet at the office at 9 if you're not sure where the schoolhouse is. There will be coffee. I shall bring biscuits.

Vicki (*current PTA chair and parent of Finlay year 4 and Arla year 2*)