



A warm welcome back from the Friends of the William Hogarth School

Welcome to all returning and new parents! We hope the summer has offered fun and relaxation and you are all ready to return back to the school routine.

This letter is a quick way for us to capture everyone who wants to be kept informed of school reminders and information via Whatsapp by asking for your contact details on the form overleaf. Below is an overview, and a reminder for most of you, of what the PTA do and how we can help support you, your child/ren and the school. We would appreciate it if you could take the time to review and return the form overleaf.

Who are the PTA? Every parent and carer in our school is automatically a member of our PTA. We are not an abstract or separate group of people, but parents and carers who want the best for their child and the school- just like you.

Why does our school have a PTA? The Friends of the William Hogarth School supports the school by raising as much money as we can to improve learning experiences for our children. We provide the 'little extras' that make school memorable – like our fun-filled Christmas and Summer Fairs. Our children are at primary school for such a relatively short time, we want to ensure we make the most of these formative years.

We also bring the communities of school and home closer together because we believe it makes sense for parents to be involved in the life of their school. Lastly, we're here for the simple reason that we want to get together socially, meet new people and have fun!

Each and everyone of us is a volunteer and give our time to make our children's time at our school memorable.

We have Class Reps for every Year. Our Class Reps are parents within the class and provide, (sometimes lifesaving), reminders and information to the wider group. They help manage a parents WhatsApp group to share reminders, information or to coordinate a meet up. They will be in touch throughout the year to ask for your help – like running a stall at one of our fairs, baking (or buying!) cakes for bake sales and coordinating appreciative gifts to our teachers at the end of the year. Some organise coffee mornings, and family picnics.

We fundraise. Last year, we raised £13,000 to support the school purchase essential materials to support our children's learning – including visualisers, writing stimulus, art books, plants in the classrooms to improve the air quality and support to improve the playgrounds. We are continuing to fundraise for a complete transformation of our outdoor area that includes a sensory garden and forest school. We are currently securing corporate sponsors to also support this long-term project to completely overhaul our children's outdoors experience. If you have anyone in your network that you feel maybe able to help, whether its donating products, time or funds please contact us via email.

We run fun events. We run fun events that raise essential funds for the school including Annual Winter and Summer Fairs, BBQs on sunny afternoons, family-fun Bingo Evening, Adults-only Quiz Night and rolling up our sleeves at the Annual Working Bee. We've also been successful at setting up partnerships for the school with Chiswick House and Gardens and Abundance London and Cow and Co. Be on the lookout for dates for this term's events coming soon. In the lead up to events, we sometimes ask for donations to our tombola, or for help in securing raffle prizes.

How you can keep to up-to-date with our activities?

- *Class WhatsApp Groups.* Make sure you sign up to the Class WhatsApp Groups by returning the slip below to your Class Teacher or directly to your Class Rep. Class Reps will post



essential information, and any can ask questions or advice, and even ask if anyone has seen your child's missing shoe (it happens more often than you would think!)

- *Bookbags.* From time to time, the school will put our flyers, sponsor and notices in your child's bookbag.
- *School Newsletter.* Every week, we give a short update on our work in the school's weekly newsletter. All essential information on events, fundraising efforts and way you can get involved is included.
- *Parent Mail:* Sometimes the school will send out any specific notices or reminders using ParentMail.
- *School Website.* The school's website is a great source of information. Shortly, our meeting minutes will be posted on the website for all to see.
- *Noticeboard & Posters.* We will advertise our events on the noticeboard (sandwich board) at both school gates and posters around the school.
- *PTA Meetings.* We have termly PTA meetings and all are welcome to join. Come and hear first hand about developments at school and fun events on the horizon.

How can I get involved? Even if you have younger children at home, work full or part time and only a small amount of time, every little bit helps. Perhaps you have a professional skill you could help us out with? Could you come to a meeting, help with a grant application or help set up an event? Could you serve food or design a poster? You don't have to come into the school; many of our volunteering tasks can be done from home. Getting involved is hugely rewarding and the more people become involved, the more we can achieve together.

Get in touch! We'd love to hear from you. You are also free to get in touch with any of the committee members if you have questions, or you can email us directly on williamhogarthpta@gmail.com.

With best wishes,

PTA Chair, Isma Adams
PTA Treasurer, Oliver Allen
PTA Secretary, Erica Belanger

Form below to be completed and returned to Class Teacher or Class Rep

___ Yes, please add me to Whats App Group

___ Yes, I am interested in being a co-Class Rep or helping with PTA activities

My name: _____

My child's name: _____

My mobile number: _____