

1. Welcome to the Friends of the William Hogarth School

Chair Isma Adams welcomed new and old parents and carers to the Friends of the William Hogarth School (also known as the Parent Teachers Association or PTA for short) to the first PTA meeting of the school year. Our welcome event was held in collaboration with the Macmillan Coffee Morning and was a great example of what the PTA is all about – enjoying a lovely morning with coffee, tea, cakes, together with others, raising some money for charity and doing things that help support our children.. Ultimately, we are here for our children, and to ensure they have the best experience of primary school. The PTA works to enhance the parent/ school partnership, as our Headteacher discussed in her presentation at “Meet the Teacher.” As parents, carers, teachers and school staff, we are all part of the PTA but recognise that we all have different time commitments and interest in being involved. However, the more we choose to get involved and support our children through the school, the more we achieve and the better the outcomes for our children.

2. Overview of the Friends of the William Hogarth School

Isma continued to overview the work of the PTA. The PTA organises Summer Fairs, Winter Fairs, and great family fun events like the Bingo Night, BBQs. These events are fun, great for our children, and remind us that we are part of an amazing and diverse community. We fundraise and provide critical funds for the ‘little extras’ that our school needs for our children. We are asking all parents and carers, to consider how you can contribute in small and big ways.

Our work is entirely run by volunteers – parents and carers, just like you, that take the time to be involved. We simply cannot do the work we do without you – our amazing volunteers. To those that are always there; to those that come to our Summer Fair or Bingo Night rain or shine; and to those that help out where they can. Our PTA is a great way to get to know other parents, the school staff, make friends and have fun! Together, we are all ensuring our school is an amazing place to be for our children. Even if you are unable to organise our events, just coming along makes a difference. You don’t have to come to meetings and can do things from the comfort of your own home or even on your work commute. Volunteering is amazingly rewarding – especially when done for the benefit of our children.

There are lots of ways to get involved, from reading in the school, to designing a poster, to helping to ‘hook a duck.’ You could help review a grant application, design a poster or even help put up posters around the school ground. Every little bit helps. Being a part of the PTA means you will be the first to know any news or updates from the school, and you’ll be actively involved in your child’s school lives. Our children are vastly proud of their parents being involved in the school, and delight in seeing us getting involved in fun activities around the school.

Our Class Reps are a parent/ carers’ best friend, and are here to help. Please do let them know if you have any time or talent you’d like to share.

3. Events

Overview of the planned events for the year. This has been planned in collaboration with the school staff in order to align our calendars.

A few new features for this year will be the Celebration of Learning organised by the school. Every term, parents will be invited into the classroom to see what child is achieving and in action. The PTA will be holding many of the events on the fringes of these new ‘Celebration of Learning’. We will be holding monthly “**Friday Fun**” events, organised by year groups to raise funds for their class. This will replace our cake sales that were dwindling in participation and sales. Once a month, year groups will organise activities and fundraisers of their choice – pizza party, cake sales, ice lollies. The ball park and lunch hall will be open for families to enjoy our community and partake in the fun.

On 18 October, we will host our first event **International Food Festival**. We are asking for volunteers to sign up to bring a food dish that celebrates the rich diversity of our community. As well, let us know if you would like to run any games or activities that represents your heritage. Eva and Erica from Year 2 will help to organise. A sign up sheet was circulated for interest and wider communication will go out via Class Reps and the Newsletter.

In November, we will celebrate **Guy Fawkes**. The celebration will be school led, but with activities and food organised by the PTA. Caroline Field, Emma, Year 2/Talia's mums and Erica A volunteered to help organise. Guy Fawkes will be celebrated in lieu of Hallowe'en, as Guy Fawkes will be a more inclusive event. Hallowe'en will not be celebrated at the school this year, and parents/ carers are requested to talk to children to avoid disappointment. In November, we will also host a much loved Adults-only Quiz night. Last year, this raised £500 and bought cameras for teachers to document learning outcomes. Olly will lead with help from Lisa, Erica A and Caroline Field. It was reminded, that further volunteers for any of these events, in whatever capacity are very welcome and at any stage.

The importance of volunteers for our **Christmas** and **Summer Fair** was discussed – both in terms of raising vital funds for the school but in being hallmark events for our children's school year. As the Summer Fair is our biggest event, we will need enough volunteers to ensure we can have the Fair on the Green. But if we do not, have volunteers by January, we will have to hold it in the school grounds – which does not get as much foot traffic or participation from wider Chiswick.

4. Governance

Proposed governance changes was overviewed by Treasurer Olly. He discussed the need to update our Constitution, drafted in 2003. Since, there have been important legal and statutory changes. We are proposing to update the Constitution in line with these changes, but also streamlining the structure of our governance to allow for more participatory and practical way of work.

The main changes proposed are to increase the number of Trustees who are responsible for the achievement of our Charity's aims. We are proposing to eliminate the additional layer of the 'Committee' and have more inclusive representation on the Trustee Board. We are proposing the appointment of delegated responsibilities for each Trustee – Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications and Community (to coordinate engagement with class reps). A summary of proposed changes, as well as description of Trustee positions will be posted on the school website. We will be voting on these proposed changes at our AGM in November.

5. Any Other Business

A question was raised around the stones in the front playground and the general progress of the sensory garden. These questions have been shared with the Headteacher to offer an update.

The meeting was concluded with a thanks to all those that attended our Welcome Meeting and an invitation to please keep in touch with any suggestions, comments or questions in person to the Trustees, class reps or directly on williamhogarthpta@gmail.com. We are looking forward to an amazing year ahead!