



A regular newsletter letting you know what the PTA has been doing, what is planned and how your fundraising is benefitting all of our children.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 31st March

Year 3 Cake Sale

Thursday 28th April

Year 1 Cake Sale

Sunday 22nd May

Fun Run

Saturday 11th June

Icklefest Camping
Acoustic Evening

Fri 24th & Sat 25th June

Family Circus

Friday 8th July

Family Party

Welcome to our new PTA Newsletter 'inTOUCH'.

As a new PTA team we have set ourselves some exciting challenges whilst trying to maintain the great work and effort of our previous committee.

We have some great new events lined up such as a **firework display** planned for the Autumn as well as the old favourites like the **Fun Run** and **Summer Party**. We are especially excited about the forthcoming **'Big Top'** circus in June. Not only will you have the chance to come to an amazing show here in the school, but all the children will be able to take part in a circus skills class with the performers in the Big Top.

These events will help us to raise funds to support many school activities and improvements; our biggest project being an **'all-weather multi-sports surface'** for the field.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions, comments or suggestions and we hope you enjoy reading our new look newsletter!

'Ground-Force Team' recruiting now

With the current PTA storage shed falling down, we are getting quotes for it to be replaced and re-sited on the old swimming pool area.

Thanks go to dad and local builder Paul Murphy who has agreed to prepare the concrete base at cost, and once built, we will be asking for **willing volunteers to help paint it**. We are currently looking for helpers to join our **'Ground-Force Team'** to help with clearing and digging for the new **'Quiet Corner'** outside the Year 1 & Reception classrooms. Work has already started but we do need some extra hands! Look out for further details and let us know if you would like to get involved.



Come along to one of our bi-monthly PTA meetings.
Next meeting is on Tuesday 26th April 2016 at 7:15pm in the staff room.

Meet the PTA team . . .

CHAIRPERSON



Hi I'm Julie and my son George is in Year 1.

Married to Adrian, we have lived in the village for almost 9 years. I was a Sales & Marketing Director of a software company within the Financial Services division before leaving to concentrate on my family and being around more for George whilst getting involved with making a positive difference at the school.

SECRETARY



Hi I'm Sarah, a 40 something mum of two - Freya in Year 2 and Harrison soon to be Reception.

Having lived in the village for almost 20 years, I joined the PTA in September and very much look forward to getting to know you all better and working with the school community in my new role.

TREASURER



Hi I'm Rachael and I'm the new Treasurer on the PTA. I have a son Jamie in Year 1 and another son Alex who will hopefully be starting Reception in September.

I currently work for the MS Trust in Letchworth as their Management Accountant.

VICE CHAIR



My name is Alison and I am mum to Jake in Year 2 and 4 year old Amber.

I joined the PTA last October and so still relatively new to this venture! We can often be seen out and about in the village, usually walking with our dog Murphy.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Kate Sargent / Josie MacNamara / Nicola Blake / Barnaby Catt-Marrison / Jenny Fletcher / Victoria Tizzard / Fiona Dungay



Just 27 givers have already raised nearly £200.00 for the PTA

Joining The Giving Machine is the quickest way to be able to donate to our school PTA for free. You generate commissions by shopping online with over 1,500 retailers including Amazon, Play.com, John Lewis, eBay, Sainsbury's and Next. They convert your sales amount into donations for your chosen cause . . . **you're raising funds for free!**

This is a great way to support our children by a slight change to the way you do your online shopping. The other great thing is if you're a UK taxpayer you can also add gift add which will increase all your donations by 25%.

Don't delay, please register now and ask other family members to register also at www.thegivingmachine.co.uk and select Ickleford School PTA as your cause . . . **Thank you**

ALL-WEATHER MULTI-SPORTS SURFACE

We have the opportunity to make perhaps our greatest impact yet with our biggest challenge. Having spoken with Mr Martin we will be aiming to raise the funds for a much needed all weather multi-sports surface to go on our field. This will create an all year round play area in addition to the playground and a safe non muddy environment for football, hockey, tennis, basketball and other sports.

Although there is still some way to go to raise the required funding, we will continue to plan further events and are also exploring other avenues such as grants and lottery funding.

We are keen to hear from anyone who has any ideas or suggestions to help towards this project so please do get in touch with us or your class rep.



How are the PTA funds used

Your incredible generosity and support at events throughout the year has enabled us to help support the school with funding a number of projects. We continue to provide financial support for the **Cello lessons**, **Christmas Theatre Group visit**, Year 6 **leavers photos** and the **ingredients** for the Cake Sales.

So far this year we have purchased new playground equipment and some additional new furniture for the courtyard.

Our current project is an improvement to the school playground. We're talking with teaching staff and specialist companies to consider options in the creation of a **'Quiet Corner'** adjacent to Reception and Year 1 classrooms. You may have noticed the orange mesh fence surrounding the area as it is being cleared in preparation for its transformation. We continue to explore ideas but it's likely that we'll seek to include a covered seating area (possibly a Friendship Bench) and vertical play boards.

Fundraising events so far . . .

So far this year you have helped raise over £6,000.

We have had quite a few fundraising events already this year, many were the tried and tested events that have run for the last few years

School Discos raised £1,642 We've had three themed discos, Halloween, Christmas and Spring, all of which have been well attended and the children have really enjoyed themselves.

Red Diesel Band Night raised £367 Another fantastic night in October was had with Greg Trevelyan and his band, Red Diesel. The dance floor was full from the first song to the last.

Quiz & Curry Night raised £578 January was host to another great night, fun was had by all and Mrs Parmars' curry went down a storm.

Christmas Gifts raised £1,157 A new event this year, the children designed their own Christmas cards, mugs, wrapping paper, note pads & Tea Towels. We had an amazing response from families and a lot of people will have received some super presents.

The Sponsored Matchbox Challenge raised £678 Last month we introduced another new event and we had a great response. Its amazing the things children can think of to fit in a matchbox and the decorating ideas were incredible.



What is the PTA?

The PTA is run by volunteer parents whose main aim is to raise funds for the school.

The PTA also provides a forum for socialising and organising community activities. Every parent at school is automatically a member of the PTA, but you don't need to get involved if you don't want to. Everyone is welcome to come along to meetings and help is always appreciated at events - the more the merrier!

How to get Involved?

Being involved doesn't necessarily mean attending meetings.

New ideas, advice and help at events is also what we are looking for. If you want to find out more or would like to get involved you can get in touch directly with the PTA at pta@ickleford.herts.sch.uk or contact your Class Rep.

YOUR CLASS REPS

Reception

Vikki Murray

Year 1

Julie Speed & Rachael Pratt

Year 2

Sarah Taylor & Alison Trevelyan

Year 3

Jenny Fletcher

Year 4

Kate Sargent

Year 5

Josie Macnamara
& Jenny Fletcher

Year 6

Staff Council

COMING TO OUR SCHOOL THIS YEAR ...

THE CIRCUS IS COMING!



The BIG TOP is coming to school ...

Arriving on Monday 20th June they will be at the school grounds for the week. During this time the Circus will run a number of circus skills in the Big Top enabling the children to be taught by the performers themselves. There will be four shows, one on Friday evening and three on Saturday. We will have food and drinks together with some popular Summer Fete stalls to make it a great day out. Look out for more information over the next coming months and get in touch if you would like to get involved.



Ickleford School Fireworks

It's still early days in the planning...

But we are looking to resurrect the Ickleford School Fireworks display. It has been a number of years since the school hosted its own fireworks display. We are booking some volunteer dads onto a category 3 fireworks course to become our very own display team. This will enable them to have the appropriate licence to buy our display fireworks.

... *A big thank you to our volunteers.*