

Welcome to Our School



Charity Registration
number 1057879



Parentkind
Member Association

Welcome to Heathwood Lower School

This information has been put together by **Heathwood PTA** especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved from the start! This booklet provides you with information about Heathwood PTA and lets you know how you can join in.

Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a Parents Association that's an integral part of the school community. Over the last few years we have raised thousands of pounds, which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. Heathwood PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It's fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers.

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available. All families are automatically members of the parent's association when their child joins our school.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee consists of:

Chair – Tracey Cunningham

Vice Chair – Karly Hall

Secretary – Clare Fensome

Treasurer – Kelly Stowell

The Committee meet on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events. All our meetings are open PTA meetings, any member can come along, find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

Volunteers

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the association. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at event or wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets (just a few examples) would be invaluable. If you would like to join us please speak to a committee member, come along to our next meeting or email us – ptaheathwood@hotmail.com

There is also a reply slip at the back of this booklet you can complete and return to the committee or the school office.

Class Representatives

Our class reps play a very important role, providing a link between individual classes and parents, and the PTA committee. The support from class reps is vital when it comes to organising our main events, from selling tickets to organising rotas of help. We really could not manage without them.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in September and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members. The date of the next AGM will be announced in a letter home once school returns after the summer. We will also post this information on our Facebook page.

Support from Parentkind

Our parent's association is a member of Parentkind, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance to over 13,500 parent associations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Membership includes comprehensive insurance cover by Zurich Insurance plc for all our association run events and gives access to support and advice on running the association plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips

Parentkind also provide resources for Parents, if you would like to sign up to their Parent e-Bulletin please visit <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Signup>

How we raise money

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of the popular events we have run over the past few years include movie nights, Christmas Fayres, a Quiz Night, Summer parties, a Pamper night, Summer Fayres, The Circus, Arts and Crafts evenings, a car boot sale and a Bingo Night.

Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes and auction lots or offers of services and skills.

We have an Easy Fundraising page and actively encourage as many parents as possible to do their online shopping through the Easy Fundraising website. A leaflet with more information about Easy Fundraising is enclosed in this pack but to get set up visit our page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/heathwoodlowerpta>

How we spend the money we raise

The PTA committee are responsible for deciding how our PTA funds are spent. Usually the School Leadership Team provide a 'wish list' of items that the school would like us to consider funding.

We also invite input from parents too, so if you have an idea of something that would benefit all the students in the school, please do share it with the Committee. We can discuss it at a meeting and feedback.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building, as this is the responsibility of the school. Our Constitution commits the association to spending money on things that will benefit the children directly.

Some of the items we have donated to the school are listed below

Sand and water play tables for preschool, WeDo robotic Lego kits, Storage boxes, Sand pit, donations to the running track, coach trips, arts and crafts equipment, annual pantomime, Easter eggs for all the children, ice lollies after sports day and Circus workshops.

How we keep you up to date

Our newsletter is sent home with the children and posted on the school website, this includes information on upcoming events and dates as well as details of the help we are looking for at larger events. Following an event, we always write to let you know how much was raised, and when we reach our target, we tell you what the money will be spent on.

If you have access to Facebook, please join our **Heathwood PTA Facebook Page** – www.facebook.com/groups/heathwoodpta

We look forward to welcoming you to our school!