

Buckden C of E School Parent & Teacher Association



Welcome to Buckden School

This information has been put together by Buckden School 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 Buckden School 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 PTA that's an integral part of the school community. We've 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. Buckden School 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.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee consists of Chair/Vice Chair/Treasurer/Secretary and Ordinary Committee Members.

The Committee meet each half term with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events. We always welcome new members of the committee to help us plan the years events and where we spend our money!

The Committee also hold open PTA meetings (usually in the pub!), any member can come along, find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in **March** 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 for the year ahead.

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 events or wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets (just a few examples) would be invaluable. We have 2 WhatsApp groups – one for committee members and one just for volunteers, so you don't have to get bombarded with all the info if you just want to give us a little of your time. Join either group by emailing Liz on chair@buckdenpta.co.uk.

How we raise money

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

School Discos, Christmas Shop, Christmas and Summer Fairs and Raffles, Quiz Nights, doughnut sales and non-uniform days.

This year we are also having the circus to school!

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.

Give as you live

Access your usual online and high street retailers via this link and help us raise a donation every time you shop online <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/buckden-school-pta-234591>

Nearly-new uniform for sale

We sell second-hand and nearly-new school uniform all uniform is available in our online shop <https://www.pta-events.com/buckdenpta/index.cfm?event=products> and will be available for you to collect from school a few days after ordering.

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. 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 recently are:

Portable cooking appliances

Renovation of the school pond

New projector and screen for the school hall

New balance bikes & helmets for EYFS

New house coloured gazebos for sports day and other events

16 ipads with covers and a charging dock

How we keep you up to date

Our news regularly features in the school newsletter, this includes information on upcoming events, what we have raised, what we are spending and dates of upcoming events, plus the details of the help we are looking for at larger events.

If you have access to Facebook, please join our www.facebook.com/BuckdenPTA/

We look forward to welcoming you to our school!