



Aldryngton School PTA

Supporting your child's education

Registered Charity: no 1026094

09Sep2022

Dear Parents/ Carers

Aldryngton has a really active parent-teacher association. As a family at the school you are automatically a member of the PTA – we are a charity who organises events throughout the year hopefully giving children memorable, happy experiences at their school. We also raise money for the school and support projects both big and small – for example last year we supported smaller projects like buying books and classroom supplies as well as bigger projects like new smartboards to allow teaching in more rooms in the school.

One of the great things about the PTA is the chance for parents to lead events and shape the educational environment of their children. By attending meetings or volunteering as an officer or for events you can influence what our money is spent on and provide happy memories for all the children in the school.

1. Meet the PTA at a coffee morning

Over the next few weeks there will be coffee mornings at drop off. Please do stop by if you can – we'll be in the playground. Mr Wieder will be with us on the 13th and several PTA officers will be there so please stop by and meet parents, PTA volunteers and school leaders. The dates for the coffee mornings are:

- Tuesday 13th September (8:50-9:20am)
- Tuesday 27th September (8:50-9:20am)

2. PTA AGM - Wednesday 5th October at 7pm

Each year the PTA has an annual, general meeting. This year it will be on Wednesday 5th October at 7pm immediately after the senior leadership presentation. There will be refreshments and friendly company. Please do come along if you can – we hope to have the widest possible perspective on which projects to fund and which events to plan.

3. Recruitment

One of the strengths of our PTA is that it has lots of active parent volunteers – this has allowed us to divide up volunteer roles into small, manageable chunks.

We have PTA officers – these roles are organisational and have the formal responsibility for the charity, these positions tend to take a small amount of time each week/month spread across the school year.

We then, separately, have event leads – if you lead an event you can shape how it runs and provide a brilliant event for families whilst raising funds for the PTA – event leads are busy in the run up to their event but then their role is completed until the next time they run their event.

As a volunteer run charity the PTA needs new people to step up each year. Legally, the charity can only use its funds to support the school if it has PTA officers and without event leads we will be unable to run our events. There are roles that can fit anyone's skills and time availability - the PTA needs its members new and old, please get involved if you can. At our AGM we will need to recruit to the following positions:

PTA Officers:

PTA chair – lead the meetings, liaise with the school and volunteers. The chair sits in the middle of our network of volunteers. It's a really fun role where you get a chance to work with others to set our direction of travel. I took on this job when my daughter was in year 2 and because of the pandemic I still felt really new to the school. It has been an excellent way to get involved and meet some of the lovely families in the school that volunteer with the PTA. Freya will be staying on as co-chair and because of the experienced volunteers around you this is a manageable role for parents new to the community as well as those with more experience. Email chair@aldryngtonpta.com to discuss with Kate if you would like to know more

PTA vice-chair – this is a position with a lot of flexibility! Talk to the chair about how you want to share tasks and organise things. Email vicechair@aldryngtonpta.com to discuss with Priya if you would like to know more

PTA secretary – we have two secretaries and our secretaries organise the meeting agendas and minutes and apply for licences. One of our secretaries is stepping down, so we are looking to recruit one more volunteer. This is a fantastic role for someone who would like to join in – and would enjoy a quieter job where they can plan in advance and help our charity run smoothly. Email secretary@aldryngtonpta.com to discuss with Sarah and Sara if you would like to know more

Event Leads

Diwali celebration lead – last year we decided we should celebrate Diwali more as a PTA. We would love to recruit an event lead who celebrates this holiday in their family to share this holiday with the school community. Email eidfayre@aldryngtonpta.com to talk to Shamse about her experience setting up a new event to share her family's celebration last year

Quiet room lead – last year we decided that we should provide a quiet room at events where we can to help children who feel overwhelmed at busy events, we think this will be particularly helpful for neurodiverse children, but we all sometimes need a quieter day and so this would be for any children who need it. We are looking for someone to volunteer to run a quiet space at events where children can relax. The volunteer could choose which events they would like to run a quiet space at so the amount of time commitment would depend on you. Email chair@aldryngtonpta.com to discuss with Kate if you would like to know more.

Wrap-A-Present shadow – this event runs each December, children have the opportunity to visit our own little shop and have help buying presents for their family members. As a parent, I have loved this event – it takes a big thing off my to-do list whilst supporting the school! Priya has run this event for several years and she is looking for someone to work with her and learn the ropes so that in 1-2 years they could lead this event. Email Priya at wap@aldryngtonpta.com to discuss this role

Disco Team shadow – Kelly and Nats are a fantastic team that run the best parties for our children. They are looking for a volunteer to shadow with them this year to look to lead next year. Email disco@aldryngtonpta.com to discuss this role.

Pool Club lead - Each year, Aldryngton school pool is available for families after school in summer and during the summer holidays. Families who join the pool club need training and organisation and the pool club leader arranges and leads this important community asset. Talk to Jo pool@aldryngtonpta.com to discuss this further.

Any event you like! Our PTA belongs to us all as a community please get involved with events your family enjoys - and, if there is something you would like to lead just let us know! We would all support you in leading an event that matters to you :) Keep in touch - email chair@aldryngtonpta.com and I will help if I can!

The process is very simple - come along to the AGM and say you'd like to volunteer and we will say "thank you very much" and give you all the support we can with getting to know the ropes. If you can't make the AGM you can still volunteer - just email chair@aldryngtonpta.com. If you would like to volunteer with a friend please do - lots of our roles are already shared. Similarly, If we get several volunteers for a role people will often share out the work. All our volunteers who work at school will need to apply for a DBS check, this is organised through the school and requires them to check your ID and proof of address.

The PTA communicates to all members via the school ParentMail app, on a closed facebook group "Parents of Aldryngton Primary School Reading" and on the dedicated PTA website: www.aldryngtonpta.com.

We are really pleased to welcome our new families and welcome back our existing families to the school and we are excited to plan memorable events and important projects this year.

Your PTA Committee