

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the **Burlington Schools' Parent Teacher Association**, we warmly welcome all the new families that have joined the Infant and Junior schools in September. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our AGM on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020. It was lovely to 'see' new and familiar faces, albeit virtually.

As mentioned at the AGM, the PTA managed to raise £7,645 in the last academic year 2019/20. Our fundraising activities were severely impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with the notable absence of the annual Spring Disco and Summer Fair. For those of you less familiar with our fundraising figures, the annual net amount raised is typically in the region of £25,000! This is a huge loss of funds – and one that our schools, and in turn our children, will miss in the current academic year 2020/21.

Our PTA events raise money for both Infant and Junior schools, so that our children can benefit from resources which enhance the curriculum and their learning, bringing richness and fun experiences for all. In the past, the PTA has not only funded the annual classroom contributions (sums of money for each and every classroom to spend on books or resources that directly enhance the children's experience in that class for that year) but also contributed to the schools purchasing larger items such as laptops, Harper Collins books, table tennis and other playground equipment for Juniors and interactive whiteboards, playground music equipment and classroom speakers for Infants. In the last three academic years alone, the PTA has provided funding in excess of £50,000 across both schools.

With the current pandemic affecting our fundraising abilities, we desperately need new volunteers and fresh ideas to help us continue to support our schools in the great work that they do for our children. Our fantastic Chair (Julie Hickman) and Treasurer (Viv Quan) have stepped down and this brings opportunities for new committee members, roles and volunteers.

As parents/carers of children at our schools, each and everyone of us are already part of the PTA – there is no special membership or official committee. Everyone is welcome to the meetings, and all ideas and opinions are listened to. By getting involved, you are able to offer as little or as much time as you want. You may be interested in catering or finance, artwork design or general organising, fundraising or outreach – all skills are welcome and very much needed. You can take on the running of an event (with a team of volunteers to support) or just offer an hour of your time.

Our next (virtual) PTA meeting will on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 1.30pm** so please join us and get involved. It is only with the collective effort of many people that we can return to fundraising and boosting the much-needed funds to help our schools. If volunteers don't come forward, events don't happen and funds aren't raised – we are facing that prospect right now.

Please email Julie ([jdickman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jdickman@hotmail.co.uk)) if you'd like to find out more about our PTA, how to get involved and what's planned for the year ahead. It would be great to have you on board!

Best wishes

Burlington Schools' PTA