



St Joseph's
Catholic
Primary School

PTA Newsletter

May 2024



Welcome to the relaunch of our PTA
Newsletter!

We are thrilled to bring back the PTA newsletter, revitalized and ready to keep you informed and engaged with all the exciting plans and activities we have in store. Your feedback has been instrumental in this relaunch. The recent survey indicated that many of you find the newsletter to be the most effective way to stay connected with our community and up-to-date on PTA initiatives.

In this and future editions, look forward to more timely updates, featured stories, and opportunities to participate in our school's vibrant community. We are committed to making our newsletter both informative and enjoyable to read.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Let's stay connected, informed, and inspired together!

Warm regards,
Katerina, Liz, Rhian.

Calling all entrepreneurial parents!

Are you a parent with your own business? We invite you to showcase your products or services at our upcoming Summer Fair! This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community and share your passion.

If you're interested in booking a table, please contact the PTA via email at enquiry@stjosutton.net at your earliest convenience. Space is limited, so reach out soon to secure your spot.

We look forward to featuring your business at the fair and making this event a success with your participation!



Spring Disco!



We're excited to invite all our students to our PTA Spring Disco on Wednesday, 22nd May 2024! It's going to be a fun-filled afternoon with music, dancing, and treats, organized by year groups for maximum enjoyment.

KS1 Time: 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM straight after school Entrance Fee: £3.50

Includes: A small bag of popcorn, a sweet treat, a glow stick, and a choice between a small bottle of water or a Fruit Shoot. Face glitter/paint £0.50 (non-included)

KS2 Time: 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM Entrance Fee: £2.00

Available for Purchase: Sweet treats, popcorn, small toys, small bottles of water and fruit Shoots, face glitter/paint.

Please purchase your child's ticket via Parentmail by Friday 17th May to ensure their spot at the disco!

Let's make this Spring Disco a memorable event for our kids. We look forward to seeing them show off their dance moves and enjoy a fantastic time with their friends!

Look out for the contest to win 3 free tickets for the Spring Disco via our Facebook page!



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PTA Survey



1. How best do you think the PTA should communicate with you?

- School website 20.8% 25
- PTA newsletter 45.8% 55
- Facebook page 1.7% 2
- Email 31.7% 38
- Total 120

1. Do you work for a company that might support the PTA by donating a raffle prize or sponsoring a stall at our Christmas or Summer Fair? Please give details.

- Yes 12.5% 15
- No 87.5% 10
- Total 120

Survey feedback

- **Thank you for everything you do for the children. My two really enjoy movie nights, discos and the Easter Egg hunt etc. I'd love to help but can never attend meetings due to work commitments and events have also always clashed with my schedule. I'll get in touch if I'm ever free to help**

We truly appreciate your positive feedback and we are happy your children enjoy our events. We understand that work and other commitments can be demanding, and we are grateful for any level of involvement you can manage.

- **Encourage events and support through year group reps as most likely to get buy in this way.**

We too as PTA committee find year groups reps to be a valuable tool in our communication strategy. This approach not only enhances our ability to keep you well-informed but also ensures that you receive timely reminders for upcoming events and important school dates that are pertinent to your child.

We believe that this method of communication fosters a clearer, more organized exchange of information and helps prevent any oversight that could occur in a more generalized communication system. It's our aim to make our communication as supportive and effective as possible for our parents and guardians.

- thanks for setting up a survey! it would help to vary nights of meetings or events- why is it always Thursday/Fridays?!!

We understand that finding a time that accommodates everyone, especially given the varied work commitments of our core members, can be challenging.

While our default meeting times are aligned with the availability of key personnel, we acknowledge the importance of inclusivity. Therefore, we are committed to exploring alternative dates and times for our upcoming meetings to ensure broader participation. Please bear with us as we coordinate with all involved parties to find a suitable compromise.

The successful planning and execution of our events rely greatly on the input from our entire community, and we aim to facilitate this as best as we can.



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- **I believe that PTA try to implement things that are stopped by school and head teacher. Previously did quiz evenings, bands playing at school, more for parents to attend, this no longer happens. Fetes were held on weekends for longer periods of time so venue was not so busy at once.**

We truly value your input and the opportunity to discuss our community activities.

Regarding the suggestion to host adults-only events, while we understand the appeal, our past experiences have shown that these events had low participation rates, making them challenging to sustain both logistically and financially. However, we are continually reassessing our event lineup and are planning to introduce an adult-focused event in the new school year, hoping to better meet the interests of our community.

As for extending the duration of our larger events like the summer fair, especially over weekends, we face significant challenges in securing enough volunteers to staff longer events. Our current model limits us to shorter durations to ensure that we can provide a well-organized and enjoyable experience for everyone involved, despite these constraints.

We are always looking for ways to improve and sincerely appreciate your understanding and continued support as we navigate these challenges. Your involvement and suggestions are crucial to our collective success, and we hope to bring more enriching experiences to our community.

Please feel free to reach out if you have more ideas or if there's any other way we can enhance our event offerings.

- **please advise further details**

Could you please provide us with your preferred email address and phone number by emailing the school (enquiry@stjosutton.net)? This will help us to keep our communications as efficient and timely as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and looking forward to staying in touch.

- **Please consider reducing the number of non school uniform days. Thank you**

Our non-uniform days are a fun opportunity for the children to express themselves and enjoy a break from the usual school attire. These days also serve as a way for us to raise funds to support various activities and resources that benefit all our students.

We want to clarify that there is no specific theme for non-uniform days to keep it simple and stress-free for everyone. Participation is completely optional, both in terms of wearing non-uniform attire and contributing financially. We understand that each family's situation is different, and we do not want to add any pressure.

If you felt any pressure regarding these events, please accept our sincerest apologies, as this was never our intention. Our goal is to create enjoyable experiences for the children while offering an opportunity for those who can and wish to contribute. Thank you for your understanding and support. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to reach out.

- **For the parents that kindly informed us of your businesses and offered to donate a prize towards our summer fair**

Thank you very much for your offer. Its highly appreciated. Could you please provide us with your preferred email address and phone number by emailing the school (enquiry@stjosutton.net). This will help us to keep our communications as efficient and timely as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and looking forward to staying in touch.



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- **There is too much pressure on parents to keep on donating money and far too many events, dress down days etc. It feels never ending. As a parent with a full time job, it's difficult to keep on top of what is happening, when.**

We are very sorry you feel that way. It has never been our intention to make anyone feel pressured to contribute financially, especially during these challenging economic times.

We fully recognize that not everyone is in a position to donate money every time. If financial contributions are not feasible for you, please do not feel obligated or pressured.

Additionally, if you are facing financial difficulties but would like your child to participate in our events, we encourage you to reach out to us via enquiry@stjosutton.net. We are more than willing to explore alternative arrangements that could make it possible for your child to participate without financial strain.

We understand that balancing work, home life, and other obligations can be challenging. To keep everyone informed and connected, we have established designated year representatives, and they serve as a vital communication link between the PTA and parents via WhatsApp. They offer a convenient way to receive updates, reminders about upcoming events, and other important information. If you are not yet a member of your child's year group on WhatsApp, we encourage you to connect with one of the other parents in your child's year group or contact the year representative to get added. This will ensure that you receive timely reminders and do not miss out on any events or important announcements. We strive to make communication as smooth and inclusive as possible and believe that these groups are a great tool for achieving this.

- **I believe PTA meeting should be a time for both the school management, teachers and parents meet to address issues and concerns, and an opportunity to ask any brooding questions. However, the meeting I once attended was only to discuss school events which could have just be a meeting for PTA executives or it could be briefly discussed during the general PTA meeting where more parents will be able to participate and support. Thanks!**

As active members of our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), each one of you plays a crucial role in enriching our school community. The primary function of the PTA is to organize social activities that foster a vibrant, engaging environment for our children, and to raise funds for essential items and resources that the school budget cannot cover.

We highly value the input and involvement of every parent, and we encourage you to bring your unique ideas and energy to our meetings. Participation in the PTA is an open and inclusive opportunity for all parents to contribute positively to our children's educational experience.

PTA meetings are held every couple of months. These gatherings are an essential time for us to plan upcoming events and discuss fundraising ideas.

The general PTA meeting (AGM) is held at the beginning of the school year (Date to be announced). This important meeting serves as an opportunity to elect new committee members, review and update our constitution, discuss our financial status, and outline a general plan for the new academic year.

Should you have any concerns or questions specifically related to school management or wish to discuss matters directly affecting your child, we encourage you to contact the school directly. You can email enquiry@stjosutton.net to request a meeting with your child's teacher or the relevant staff member to address your specific issues.

PTA committee and year reps



PTA Committee

Chair – Katerina Velliou
Vice Chair – Liz Concannon
Treasurer – Rhian Dent Smith
Secretary – **Position vacant!**
Acting secretary – Liz Concannon

PTA Class Reps

FYM: Suzie Barraclough
FYBS: Rachel Hammond
Y1S: Harriet Goddard / Jo Miles
Y1L: Lisa Thorp
Y2K: Catherine Biddle
Y2E: Sugandha Guter Katarina
Y3G: Kate Woodall / Katerina Velliou
Y3J: Doyin Ogunsolu
Y4L: Liz Concannon/Harriet Goddard
Y4R: Anna Crowther / Rachel Dennis
Y5W: Jo Miles
Y5R: Doyin Ogunsolu / Nicola Kelly
Y6J: Liz Concannon
Y6H: Laura Taylor

PTA future events

- PTA meeting Monday 3 June 18:00 online! (Link to be announced).
- Spring Disco 22May
KS1 3:30pm - 4:15pm
KS2 4:30pm - 5:15pm
- Summer Fair 28 June
3:30pm-5:30pm
- Non uniform days
(Dates to be announced)

Thank you!

We and all of the children would like to thank you all for your voluntary and generous support. As well as the donations made throughout the year – we hope this summer term will finish the year fantastically.

All PTA work is available and willing to help – no obligation to help at every event!

Follow our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552594640013>

Please contact us through the school - enquiry@stjosutton.net,
addressed: FAO PTA