

**Welcome to Our School**

**Wheelwright Lane  
Parent's Association**

## Welcome to Wheelwright Lane Primary School

This information has been put together by Wheelwright Lane Parent's Association especially for you, as a new family who has recently joined 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 Wheelwright Lane Parent's Association and lets you know how you can join in.

## Why do we have a PA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a Parent's Association that's an integral part of the school community. Over the 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. Examples of this are: recorders for all year 3 children, school PE bags, subsidised Christmas Theatre trips, a new PA system for the school hall, artwork in the reception corridor, money towards year 6 leaver's celebrations.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. Wheelwright Lane Parent's Association 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 Nina, Katie, Helen and Katie. We are a very small PA and are looking for new Committee members. We meet on a regular basis together with Mrs Browne and Mrs Essex when we are planning events.

The Committee hold open PA meetings, anyone can come along, find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

## Volunteers

We welcome ad hoc help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit a little 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 – [wheelwrightlanepa@gmail.com](mailto:wheelwrightlanepa@gmail.com)

## Class Representatives

We are looking for class reps to 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. If you are interested in becoming your Class Representative please let us know.

## Support from Parentkind

Our PA 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 PAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

School discos, Christmas and Summer Fayres, Santa's Grotto and Movie Nights.

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

### **How we spend the money we raise**

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. We are committed to spending money on things that will benefit the children directly.

### **How we keep you up to date**

We input into the school newsletter which is send out by email every Tuesday, this includes information on upcoming events and dates plus details of help we are looking for at lager 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 "Wheelwright Lane PA Welcomes Friends and Family" page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/244235536037099/>

If you would like to join our Whatsapp Group – PA Rocks - please let a committee member know or drop us an email: [wheelwrightlanepa@gmail.com](mailto:wheelwrightlanepa@gmail.com)

*Nina, Katie, Helen & Katie*

