Walton Church of England VC Primary School PTA
Email: Waltonprimaryschoolpta@gmail.com
September 2025

PTA Welcome Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

🌟 Welcome to Reception! 🌟

A huge welcome to all our new families who have just joined our school community! We hope your children are settling well into Reception and beginning to enjoy all the exciting adventures that lie ahead. Starting school is such a special milestone.

What is the PTA?

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a group of parents, carers, and staff who work together to support the school, raise funds, and organise events that make our children's school experience even more memorable.

Joining the PTA is a brilliant way to:

- Get involved in school life
- Meet other parents and carers
- Share ideas and skills
- Help raise funds that directly benefit our children

With a few PTA members stepping down as their children have flourished onto their next adventure with secondary school, we really need some more volunteers to join. Whether you can spare a lot of time or just a little, every contribution is valued and appreciated.

If you're interested in joining our PTA committee or can help out at any events, please let us know by contacting a PTA member or emailing waltonprimaryschoolpta@gmail.com.

Join Us – Next PTA meeting

Come and meet us, find out more and get involved as we plan some events for this autumn term,

Thursday 18th September, 7.30pm
The Royal Oak Pub, Walton

It's an informal and friendly get-together, and a great chance to meet other parents. No pressure to sign up for anything – just come along and say hello.

Fundraising highlights last year- 2024-2025

We received incredible support throughout the 2024- 2025 school year! We wanted to let you know our fundraising efforts:

- **Cake Sales -** all those delicious bakes and treats raised **£322.41**
- **Festive Wreath Making Evening** over at The Royal Oak - A wonderful evening of brilliant creations raised a brilliant **£434.77.** We are grateful for all the lovely foliage donations from the parent community. We look forward to repeating this event later this year.
- **Christmas Fair** with fun stalls, raffles and treats all run by our PTA Elves collected an impressive **£1460.66.** We are extremely grateful for all the local businesses and parents that donated a wealth of impressive raffle prizes and donations.
- **My Child's Art -** Your child's arty drawings for festive cards and gifts raised **£76.91**
- **The Monthly School Lottery** has raised **£442**
- **World Book Day Pre-Loved Book Sale** – Your generous donations raised **£88.85** and many children took home some new reading books to enjoy**.**
- **Smarties Challenge** – Over the easter break children completed chores for friends and family and their own sponsored events. We were overwhelmed with the response and enjoyed hearing about the wonderful things the children did to raise money. The results were shared in a school assembly. Swallows class raised the most and were treated to ice creams on the field. The fundraiser collected an amazing **£453.00.** We are thankful to Tescos for donating the majority of the smarties.
- **School Arts Week Refreshments** – **£22.26**
- **Break the Rules Day** – **£244.55**
- **Sports Day Refreshments** with wonderful cream teas and scones donated by Burns the Bread raised **£236.82**
- **Summer Disco with DJ Bernie and stalls** raised a fantastic **£473.31.** Thanks to Tesco, Lidl and Sainsburys for donating some of the refreshments.
- **Ice lolly sales** to help the children cool off in this wonderful sunshine has raised over **£119**
- **Donations and grants received - £1092.25**

Total raised in 2024-2025 academic year....£5467.15

Thanks to amazing contributions, we've been able to support enriching experiences, fun events, and valuable resources for current and future children of Walton School. Let's hope to keep the momentum going into the new school year!

How the funds are supporting our school

Thanks to fundraising efforts, we've been able to invest in some fantastic resources and experiences for our children last year, including:

- **Glockenspiels** to enhance music lessons

- **Headphones** for computer learning
- **Party food** for classroom Christmas celebrations
- A **visiting pantomime theatre production** for December fun
- **Stump grinding** to prepare our outdoor learning area
- A new **shed** for Forest School storage
- **Forest school supplies** to support hands-on nature learning
- A **pond liner** to help prepare to create an outdoor wildlife space. More on this in 2025/2026
- Supplied **new school book bags** to reception children
- A **new play barn, shelving unit, builder play kit, workshop play tools** to inspire imaginative play in Owls class
- **Hurdles** and **shot puts** to support active physical education

What's next and how can you help?

The school continues to plan to transform the outdoor space into a more meaningful learning environment for all students. We will continue to raise more funds, but as the school has to consider health and safety considerations and liaising with Somerset Council, so some of these projects take time.

The Science Area

Plans have already begun with clearing the overgrown pond area, we have brought a pond liner and now need this installed. The pond will be restocked with plants, newts, frogs, snails, and other creatures. Additionally, the school is looking to create a dedicated growing area with a greenhouse and raised beds. This space will greatly enrich students' understanding of the science curriculum and spark curiosity and appreciation for the natural world.

Trim Trail

We will be supporting the school with funding to repair the trim trail this new school year.

School Educational Enrichment Trips

The PTA will be working with the school to help with funding/subsidising school trips for all classes.

Forest School Area

At the far corner of the school, the school has begun creating an outdoor learning space featuring tree stump seating around a fire pit. We have brought storage for forest school resources. A shelter is needed for this area so it can be used in all weathers. This area will support cross-curricular learning, offering practical experiences that inspire and motivate students.

Wellbeing Garden

This will be an area that is a calming environment that promotes mental health, helping to nurture happy, confident future generations. The wellbeing garden will consist of connected spaces with seating, surrounded by wind chimes, water features, fragrant plants, and sensory walkways. As a church school, this area will also foster spirituality and a sense of belonging.

If anyone is or knows of someone involved in a company or has the expertise to help with these projects in any way such as resources, advice or service, then please do let the PTA or school know.

We are continuing to work with the school to identify other areas where we can make the most impact through our fundraising efforts. Your feedback is always welcome—please feel free to share any ideas or suggestions for future fundraising initiatives.

Who is on the current PTA Committee?

PTA Elected Committee
CO CHAIR – Allison O'Regan (Year 3, Robins) and CO CHAIR - Jo Linter (Year 2, Swallows)
TREASURER- Charlotte Daborn (Year 5, Wagtails)
SECRETARY - Vacancy

Committee Members

Tracey Bishop (Year 6 Kingfishers)
Lucy Davies (Year 4 Wagtails)
Rachel Ashman (Year 5 Kingfishers, Year 4 Wagtails, Year 1 Owls)
Candice Hatwell, (Year 2 Swallows, Year 6 Kingfishers)
Lian Hardware (Year 4 Wagtails)
Bex Dixey (Year 6 Kingfishers)
Emily Milson (Year 1 Swallows)
Karen Doble (Year 3 Robins)
Hywel Thomas (Year 2 Swallows)
Hannah Phillips (Year 2 Swallows, Year 5 Wagtails)
Naomi Johnson (Yr 6 Kingfishers, Y5 Kingfishers)
Karl Shoemark (Reception Owls)

Connecting class parents/carers

There are various Whatsapp groups that have been set up and run by school parents/carers for each class/year group. They are a great way to get connected, provide informal support, remind about parties, organise socials, find lost uniforms and useful for us as the PTA to give updates/reminders for events. Please ask a member of the PTA committee if you would like to find out more about these groups and we can ensure you are added to the group.

At time of writing, we are unaware if a new group for Owls has been set up, it is usually initiated by one parent. Is this something you can help with?

There is also a **'Walton School Parents' facebook page** which again is a great way to get connected and we update parents and carers on our events. Just search for the page on facebook and request to be added.

Our School Lottery, a cash prize every week!

Help us reach our goal of signing up over 50 people and helping us raise money for Walton Primary School! Our School lottery is simple — choose 6 numbers between 0–9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes! One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot!

Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Walton CEVC Primary School. Every Saturday

at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card. It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Walton CEVC Primary School! To join go to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/walton-cevc-primary-school

We'll keep you updated through school communications, whats app groups and walton parent facebook group so you won't miss any events or opportunities to get involved.
Thank you for your support and a warm welcome!

We're excited for another great year ahead and hope to see many of you at the next PTA meeting.

Best wishes,

Walton Primary School PTA Team
Email: Waltonprimaryschoolpta@gmail.com