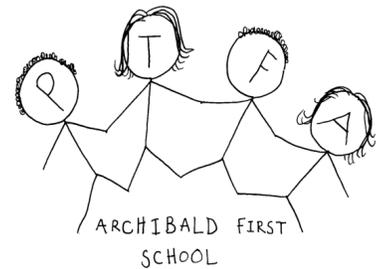


Archibald First School Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (The PTFA)



Registered charity no 1099483

Archibald First School PTFA would like to say a big **HELLO** and **WELCOME** to all parents of new children to the school. We hope that your children (and you!) are settling in well and that you may like to know a bit more about what we do around school and to let us answer a few questions that often get asked about the PTFA.

Most importantly we would like to say that this is not an exclusive club. We welcome anybody, we're not fussy - we just want anybody who is interested in helping us to do our best to raise funds for the kids at school and sometimes the wider community in the best way we know how. All parents and friends are automatically members of the PTFA and are welcome to attend all meetings and take part in our activities.

What exactly do we do?

We hold a range of social and fundraising activities throughout the year and help out with school events where we can. The money raised is used for a whole host of extras for the benefit of the children - from small things like Christmas crackers for all children for the festive lunch, book bags to welcome the children to school to larger items such as outdoor play equipment and the current drive to raise money for a laptop trolley and 15 laptops. We often organise activities that benefit the wider community too.

Past events have included monthly cake sales, coffee afternoons, discos, Christmas evenings, Summer Fayres, non uniform days, a fashion show, air ambulance collections, pub quizzes, shoebox appeals.....need we go on? Last year we raised over £5,500. It's fair to say we are active!

The PTFA tries to keep everyone updated through notices in book bags, texts, posters and emails. We also have our own new and shiny pages on the school website, so keep an eye on those, especially as we are only just learning how to update them!

There's always plenty of people around to do this sort of thing, isn't there?

We are fortunate to have a good strong group of people who regularly support different events throughout the year and we receive lots of practical support from the school staff too. But there are also people leaving us each year as they move onto other schools with their children and others whose changing lives mean they can't spend as much time helping out. So, to put it simply, if we don't get new people involved, one day the PTFA will grind to a halt. The PTFA is only as strong as the people who are involved with it and will only continue to exist with the support of parents.

Isn't it a select group?

Most definitely not! You may see a few groups of people chatting in the yard in the mornings, but that's only because we are making plans and arrangements. Sometimes they may seem to be the same people too as there is a good group of regular supporters, but that really does need to expand - many hands make light work and all that. If you happened by and approached the group they would be welcoming and, if you were willing, would try and give you a job! Many who are active in the PTFA would otherwise never have met and some of the people involved in helping at events actually don't know each other at all. And there are many others who give freely of their time too.

But it's a mothers' meeting....

No again! Happily, there are a number of fathers, grandparents, great-grandparents and family friends who regularly help out. We're a really mixed bunch - students, employees, the self-employed, stay-at-home parents, siblings, grandparents, school staff - we've got the lot. A variety of input, opinion and skills makes for a better organisation.

If I attend a meeting I'll automatically be given a job, won't I?

Well, hopefully you'll decide that there are things you'd like to do once you find out a bit more about what goes on. But even if you can only give some ideas or feedback or can give half an hour over the year, that will be great. The time commitment and input is entirely up to you.

I can't bake.....

And neither can many people! Home baking is always very well received, but not all of us can whip up a Victoria sponge while juggling a hundred other things. So shop bought goods are just as appreciated. All taste good and raise money at the same time.

How can I help?

In more ways than you think! Anyone is welcome to attend meetings and have a say in what we do. The PTFA can take up as much or as little time as you can spare. You don't have to make a regular commitment but an hour or two here and there all contributes to our cause. We understand that people may be busy during the day or just can't get babysitters to make meetings or events in the evenings, but there is always plenty going on behind the scenes. Some parents wrap tombola prizes at home, some help run the library, others come to the disco and man a stall, some bake a cake for the coffee afternoons or take a bag of raffle tickets home to fold. There really is a job for everyone, no matter how much or little time you can spare!!

Maybe I can help out, what do I do about it?

Fill in your details on the form attached, indicate your interest and return to the school office - we are looking forward to hearing from you. It's a great way to meet other parents and become involved with your child's school and you never know you might even enjoy it!!!!

We are also interested in hearing from people whose employers offer fund matching schemes who might be interested in matching the money we raise from a specific event or activity.

If you would like to help in any way please just let us know. No offer of help is ever turned away!!

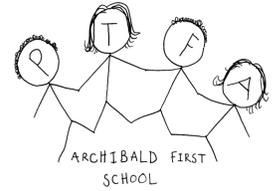
When is the next meeting?

The next meeting is **this Friday, 28 September at 1.30pm** in the after school club. Refreshments are provided, as are toys for younger siblings! We meet once each half term and try and mix the day and times throughout the year.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope to meet you soon.

Zoë Shaw

PTFA Chair and mum to Findlay, Class 4 and Struan, morning Nursery



Name:

Childs name + Class

I would like to

(Please tick box as appropriate and return form to the main school office)

Be added to the PTFA email mailing list	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address:
Talk to someone about what I can do	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Come along to a meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Help in the library	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other, please add -	<input type="checkbox"/>	