

Welcome to Our School

**Countess Gytha
Primary School
PTFA**

Parentkind
Member Association

Welcome to Countess Gytha Primary School.

This information has been put together by **Countess Gytha Primary School PTFA** especially for you, as a new family joining 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 the PTFA and lets you know how you can join in.

Why do we have a PTFA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a PTFA that's an integral part of the school community. We have only recently formed a new PTFA at the beginning of 2020, but we have an enthusiastic and hardworking committee that are keen to fundraise for equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. Countess Gytha PTFA 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. All families are automatically members of the PTFA when their child joins our school.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee consists of:

Chairperson: Nicki Rowlands

Vice Chairperson: Jo Lavender

Treasurer: Heidi Brownhill

Secretary: Matt Bullock

Social media & advertising: Katie Sweby

Additional committee members: Kelly Sandford, Faye Lye, Tors Board, Caroline Robinson, Peter Fletcher, Katie Williams & Rachel Pengelly.

The Committee meet on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events.

The Committee will also hold open PTFA meetings, any member can come along, find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

Volunteers

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the association. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at an 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 – countessgythaptfa@yahoo.com

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in March and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members.

Support from Parentkind

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

Summer and Christmas fayres

Cake sales

Non Uniform (mufti) days

After school film club

Raffles

Second hand uniform sales

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

You can also support us by using the <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> website or download the app, just search for our cause “Countess Gytha Primary School PTFA” it’s free to use!

Please let us know if there’s an event you would like us to consider organising, we are always looking for new fundraising ideas!

How we spend the money we raise

The PTFA committee are responsible for deciding how our PTFA funds are spent. We meet with the headteacher regularly and discuss what equipment, resources and educational experiences they 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, then 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 believe that the money must be spent on things that will benefit the children directly.

How we keep you up to date

Regular updates will be sent out within the school newsletter, this includes information on upcoming events and dates plus details of the help we are looking for at larger events. Following an event, we will 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.

We will also add event information to the school noticeboard situated outside the school main entrance, this is where you'll find all our posters and news.

If you have access to Facebook, please join our Countess Gytha Parents Group. This is a group designed for school reminders, fundraising and event advertising. We also have a second-hand uniform sales page – Countess Gytha School- Second Hand Uniform Buy, Sell or swap.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school!