

The FenHil News

‘Respect, Honesty, Kindness and Collaboration’

6th September 2019

Website: www.fenstanton-hilton.eschools.co.uk

Twitter: @Fenhilp

PTA Twitter: @FenHilPTA

Dear Parents and Carers,

PTA news

Welcome back! We hope you all had a fantastic summer break.

Your PTA is already looking forward to planning this year's exciting events. Our first meeting, where we begin to map out the plans for the year, will be held at school on **Monday, 16th September at 7.00 pm**. Why not come along and see what it's about?

This seems like a good time to (re)introduce the PTA and what we do. The PTA is the main fundraising body for the school. At a time when school budgets are getting ever smaller, it falls to PTAs like ours to help plug the gap between a school's budget and their aspirations for essential equipment and nice-to-have extras that benefit all of the children in school.

In recent years, PTA have funded the Accelerated Reader software, the furnishings for the outdoor classroom, an extensive update of books for the school library, a bank of iPads, and outdoor play equipment for both infants and juniors. We do this by organising fundraising events that the children love, such as discos, movie nights, festivals and our legendary Christmas and summer fayres, plus other, smaller events and initiatives throughout the year.

The PTA committee organise of all of the events and run them supported by a larger group of volunteers called Friends of the PTA. The committee are a small, friendly group who all want to raise as much money as we can for our amazing school. We meet once per term, for a couple of hours and fill in any gaps using WhatsApp or email.

So, have you read this and thought, "I'd love to get involved with that, but I just don't have time"?

We know that life is a massive juggle, so we don't expect you to be able to attend every meeting or to be at every event. It really is a case of every little helps. We are all busy people with jobs, families and other commitments. But the larger the committee and Friends list, the lighter the workload becomes.

So, if you think you *could* be involved either on the committee or as a Friend who we can call on to help out at events, please get in touch with us at fhpspta@gmail.com or come along on 16th September and find out more.

Later this half term, we'll be holding our AGM. This is where we officially form our new committee and say goodbye to anyone leaving us. We know we are losing our secretary this year, so if anyone has the burning desire to be our new secretary, please do get in touch. It isn't as scary as it may sound and you'll have lots of support in taking on the role.

And onto our fundraising initiatives...

Our first fundraiser is one of our regular **Bag2School** collections. This will be on **Thursday, 10 October**. Bags and further info will go out soon, but you can use any charity bag for the collection. Take a look to see what you can put in your bag: <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the last academic year was 97% which is a real success and above the national average of 95%. As you will know, your child's good attendance in school is vital to their success as a learner. We monitor closely our attendance figures and if your child's attendance has a dip or is low then you will receive a letter. These are designed to open up conversations and demonstrate a duty of care that we have to all families. We actively discourage term time holidays, you will need to make an appointment to see me if you wish to do this and we can discuss the circumstances.

Staffing

We welcome Miss Mahmood back to school after her sabbatical year studying for a Masters. We also welcome Miss Hime who is teaching Year 3 this year.

Meet the Teacher

You are all invited to a Meet the Teacher evening next Wednesday 11th at 5pm-6pm. This will be an opportunity for you to see your child's classroom and hear about the new curriculum. Reception will run as a Phonics evening as you will have met your teachers at the Home visits.

Guitar

Our resident guitar teacher, Mr Cory, may have some available slots for the forthcoming school term (from September). If your child is interested in learning the guitar, please contact Mr Cory via email at jimmypagefans@hotmail.com with your child's name, parent/guardian name, school name, class teachers name, lesson duration requirements (15min - £8.25 per session or 30min - £16.50 per session) & mobile phone number. Please note that if you have already joined a waiting list, then your child will be the first to be offered lessons.

Contacts

There has been a little bit of a re-jig in school, please see the contacts you may need below.

You may contact staff via email if you wish to talk to them at any stage, please be aware that they will reply within working hours and never at weekends.

Email address	Nature of contact
office@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk	Admin, dates, events, general queries
head@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk Mrs Worth	Leadership enquiries
lcooper@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk Mrs Cooper	Enquires or concerns about key stage 2 children (years 3,4,5 and 6)
hsumner@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk Mrs Sumner	Enquiries or concerns about children in Years 1 and 2
nthompson@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk and kperry@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk Mrs Thompson and Mrs Perry	Enquiries or concerns about Reception children
mbyrne@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk Mrs Byrne	SEND enquiries

Important Date:

Saturday 5th October – Clean up day, more details to follow.

Kind regards,

Claire Worth

Headteacher