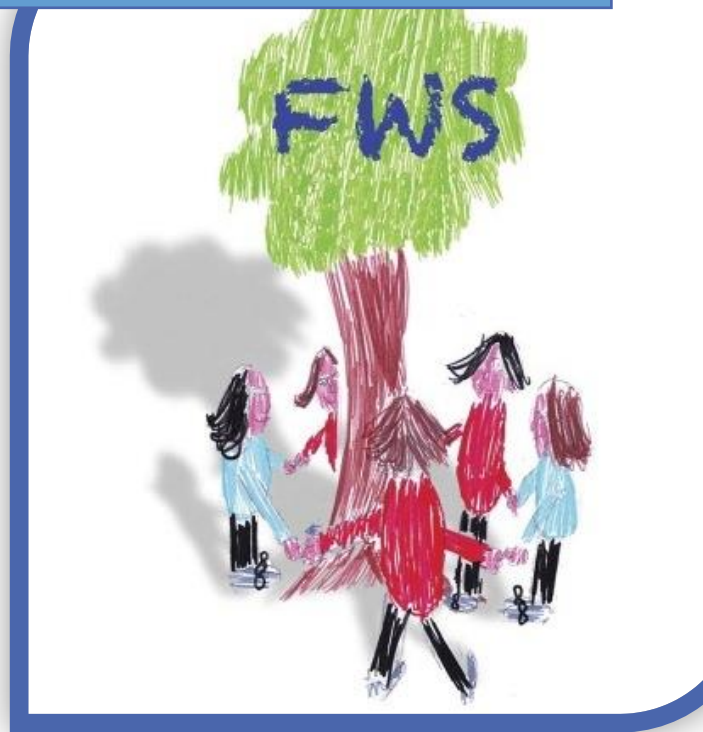


Welcome to Your PTA - A Booklet for New Parents



Friends of Westbury School
September 2015
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Welcome to the Friends of Westbury School

The Friends of Westbury School (FWS) is the name of the Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) for Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School.

In this booklet you'll find out what your PTA does and how it helps and how you can get involved.



If after having read it you have any questions, please do get in touch with one of the PTA committee members, email us (contact details at the end) or leave us a message at the school office and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

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What is the PTA?

The PTA is where the parents and teachers of the school come together to help make our children's stay at Westbury on Severn C of E Primary School better.

As a parent/carer of a child at Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School you are automatically a member of the school's PTA -the Friends of Westbury School (FWS). It's not an exclusive club, quite the

opposite; it is about coming together to help our children and the school. Anyone who has a suggestion or wants to help will be warmly welcomed.



What the FWS do?

We are very fortunate at our school to have a PTA that is and has been an integral part of the school community for many years. In its time the FWS has raised thousands of pounds, which have been spent on improving equipment and resources to enhance our children's education and improving the facilities and buildings at the school. But the FWS is not just about fundraising and exists to provide closer links between home and school and to enrich the lives of the staff, parents and children and the local community. It is an excellent way to bring everyone together socially in support of the school.

The FWS:

- raises funds to help Westbury on Severn C of E Primary School provide more for our children
- runs and helps to run events that enrich our children's stay at Westbury on Severn C of E Primary School
- runs and helps run events that bring our school and local community closer together.

We are a Registered Charity

The FWS is a registered charity (Charity number 1148488).

It is a legal requirement that organisations such as ours, with an annual income in excess of £5,000, register with the Charity Commission. As a Charity we must abide by Charity Commission rules and regulations and we are bound by a constitution.

Being a Registered Charity means we can raise funds more easily from grant giving trusts and local businesses.



Role of the Committee

Our PTA committee consists of a Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary and three committee members to make up the full committee.

The Committee meets on a regular basis usually once or twice per half term. We usually meet on a Tuesday evening at The Red Lion Pub in Westbury-on-Severn. All parents are invited to come along to any of the PTA meetings and express their views and get involved if they can in our events and activities.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held at the beginning of the academic year and this is an opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about last year's events, funds raised and how the money has been spent. It is also the occasion when we elect our new committee.

A list of current PTA committee members and their contact details is at the end of this booklet for your information.



How Our Children Benefit

The money raised from the events goes towards helping our children and the school.

It is at our FWS meetings, that the decisions on how to spend the money are agreed. Usually, Mr. Crunkhurn (our Head Teacher) will have a suggested list of items that the school would like to purchase over the year/over the next few years. Sometimes this will be as a result of the children asking for something or parents' suggestions, or it may be linked to wider improvements / projects being led by the school governors.

Generally, PTA funds are for the 'extras' not provided by the school budget, that make our children's learning experiences more fulfilling and exciting. We always endeavour to spend our funds in ways that will benefit all our children across all areas of the school and curriculum.

Last year the FWS spent some £6,000 on the children and school which was used as follows:

- New climbing frame for the trim trail
- New raised school pond
- Ongoing garden maintenance
- Foreign language learning resources
- Games for wet playtimes and KNex resources
- Money boxes for Reception children
- Hoodies and meal out for Year 6 leavers
- A book for Christmas and Mother's Day gift for each child
- Transport costs for the end of term whole school trip



Events During the Year

The biggest fundraisers during the year are the Christmas Fair and School's Drama Club Performance. However, the events are not just about raising funds – they are a lot of fun for our children and also help to bring our community together.

Last year saw parents, teachers, children and the local community helping with the following events:

- Christmas Fair (Annual event)
- Barn Dance
- School Discos
- Westbury's Got Talent (talent show featuring the children and teachers at Westbury-on-Severn Primary School)
- School's Drama Club Production of Cinderella (Annual event)
- End of Year Celebration Barbeque
- School Carnival Float in Westbury-on-Severn Carnival



The Westbury's Got Talent show has been occurring for a number of years now. In fact the 2015 show was the third time this event has taken place. It is a very popular evening and the children love having an opportunity to show off their amazing talents. The show ends with a lighthearted routine from the staff at the school, something not to be missed! This event usual takes place every two years.

Other events organized by the FWS over the last few years have included:

- Bingo nights
- Songs from the musicals evening at the Parish Church
- Irish night
- Equestrian table top sale

Usually events either take place at Westbury Village Hall or at the School. We try to have a variety of events for children, families and adults.



How We Get Information to You

We keep parents informed by posting regular items in Westbury Whispers (the School's newsletter) including information on forthcoming FWS meetings, events, requests for assistance (when we are planning large events) and reporting what money has been spent on. Occasionally we send letters home. All FWS letters we send home are clearly marked with the FWS logo.

We also have a page on Facebook (Friends of Westbury School), which we use to keep people posted about events.

How Can You Get Involved

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through the FWS. Offering to help before events or at other times during the year is greatly appreciated. It really is a case of 'many hands make light work'. It really doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis or if you can't come to meetings or into school. There are so many different events during the year and there are many different ways to help e.g. selling snacks and refreshments, running a stall at the Christmas Fair or school disco, supervising at school discos, designing posters and tickets for events, helping to record (film/photograph) events or making cakes.

If you feel able, please volunteer to be a Committee Member or come along to the Annual General Meeting or to a normal meeting. You can give us your ideas for fundraising events, ask questions and voice your opinion.

On behalf of all the children we would like to thank you in advance for your very valuable support which enriches their learning experiences and makes their time in school so enjoyable.



The Friends of Westbury School Committee 2014-15

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