

## **Proposal to merge Polehampton Infants' and Juniors' PTAs**

The current committees have been discussing the possibility of merging the PTAs to create one PTA for both schools. The Infants and the Juniors Schools have been working closely together for many years now. We were brought even closer together with the appointment of Miss Ball as Executive Head in 2019. This year both schools have joined the Keys Trust Academy which is another change that has brought the schools even closer together. Prior to this a merge would have been more complicated as funding decisions were made by the schools more independently.

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult to find volunteers to run the Committees at both schools and it is felt that merging could help us to keep the PTA going longer term. There has always been a degree of overlap in the raising of funds for the schools which, since the pandemic, has become even more evident, as displayed in the recent online events being run across both schools. The vast majority of children go through both schools and therefore we feel it makes sense for both schools to benefit from fundraising

### **How PTA funds are currently allocated**

The schools have various options when it comes to drawing on funds, whether it be the PTA, government grants or other charitable organisations. All funds raised by the PTA's are currently held in their respective bank accounts until the school has a requirement to draw-down the funds. Staff from both schools discuss their needs and Miss Ball (along with Mrs Castell, Mrs Medcalf and Mrs Scott) prioritises each school's needs and determine which items would be suitable for the PTA to fund. The PTA then decide if they are in agreement.

If the PTAs are merged then this process would still be followed and as such parents can be confident that donations made to the school would be allocated where the school felt it would be best placed. Some years the Juniors will be much more in need than the Infants and vice versa. It will also enable parents to see the benefit of their hard work and contributions throughout their children's school journey.

### **Voluntary Contributions**

Voluntary contributions would be handled in the same way they are now with these generous donations being dedicated to the school to which the child attends.

The benefits of a merger would include:

Joint fundraising - both schools do a lot of fundraising throughout the year. With one Committee we could still have the events we normally have as well as some bigger events during the year – eg Joining together for one large Summer fair instead of running two, joint Quiz nights, curry nights etc.

Streamlined committee - we would have one main Committee for managing the finances, events calendar and general fundraising for both schools and various sub-committees for fairs, discos,

movie nights etc. This would enable more people to get involved in the different fundraising projects.

We anticipate that some fundraising will be for specific projects, so please be assured that, on those occasions, donations/funds would be ring-fenced and accounts will be transparent.

Over the last few years we have seen one PTA benefit considerably more than the other. For example – In 2018 the Infants committee raised £41,000. £10,000 of this was from parent specific company donations. Substantial amounts were also from larger events – Dinner dance/wellness evening, that were attended by parents from both schools. By comparison the Juniors PTA raised £15,000 that year.

On the flip side, a few years before this when the Junior school was fundraising for a big project, it benefitted from large corporate donations from the David Brownlow Trust and others.

Joining the two committees together will enable fundraising going forwards to be applied, at the discretion of the school, where it is most needed.

The current merger proposal will bring together the two committees under one new name of Polehampton PTA.

The Infant School PTA has recently agreed to fund new toilets at the school to replace those next to Blue Class and both PTAs are funding new books for the school libraries. This brings the current account balances of the two PTAS to approximately the same level, so upon merger the remaining balances will be pooled. As mentioned above voluntary contributions and the gift aid collected upon them will remain separate and administered for the school the child attends.

We would like to hear from any parents who have questions or points they would like to raise in relation to this merger. Please email [polehamptonpta@gmail.com](mailto:polehamptonpta@gmail.com) by the 10<sup>th</sup> April if you have any questions.

Many thanks

The PTA