

## Wooden Hill Primary and Nursery School

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Headteacher

Mrs Joanna Lagares

2 July 2019

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Staff,

### **We need your help!**

Fundraising is becoming an ever more important part of school life, with school finances being squeezed as a result of rising costs and reduced pupil funding, schools have been struggling to make ends meet which has led to some drastic cuts and changes in some schools.

At Wooden Hill School, the governors and school leaders have managed the school budget well, which has meant that we have always been in a relatively strong position financially. However, we are now finding it harder and harder to balance our budget and we are no longer in such a strong financial position as we have been in previous years.

The governors and school leaders wish to look at how we can generate funding for our school which can be used to maintain the current provision we have on offer as well as still running fun community events which also raise funds for the school.

We are therefore proposing that we look at new ways of generating significant funds for the school through sponsorship, commission, lettings as well as fundraising events for the community. It is possible to be raising £20,000 or more a year for the school in this way!

We would like to set up a group to look at how this will work, how events will be run and how the whole school is accountable, therefore we are looking for a wide range of people to represent the different parts of the school community. We need school staff (leaders, teachers, support staff), parents (representing the different phases and key stages), governors and representatives from the PTA. Ideally we would like representatives with a wide range of backgrounds and professions.

If you follow the school's PTA page, you may have noticed that from September there are going to be some fundamental changes and the PTA will no longer exist in its current format, but become an important part of the new group.

The PTA have worked hard for the school and organised many successful events; most notably raising money for the drinks and crackers for the Christmas dinner and paying for half the cost of the coaches for all of the school trips as well as the year 6 leavers' gifts. The PTA were also able to contribute £2000 to the new playframe last year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam Cornwall and Katie Woodward specifically who have worked tirelessly over the last few years in running events and for the many hours of work that these events take. Due to changes in their personal circumstances, both Sam and Katie have stepped down from the PTA. Anneka Higham-Hook, who has been the PTA's secretary this year and is currently the acting chair, will be the lead representative of the PTA in the new working party.

If you would like to help form this new funding group, please leave your details at the school office. In order for the working party to be effective, numbers may need to be restricted.

LEARNING, *Growing* & *Achieving* Together

The first meeting, to share initial ideas and thoughts will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September at the school, with the possible view to the structure and format being shared with the community by half term. This would allow enough time to organise an event before Christmas, if that is what the group decide.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. As always, thank you for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely



Joanna Lagares  
Headteacher



Marco Ng  
Chair of Governors



Anneka Higham-Hook  
Parent Representative  
(current PTA)