

## **This is a very warm welcome to our schools.**

We realise it can be very nerve wracking joining a new school for the first time, and there always seems to be so many questions to ask. Hopefully we can answer your questions about the Parents Association.

### **What is a Parents Association?**

Our committee is a friendly group of parents and staff who meet regularly throughout the year to discuss and arrange fundraising events. The funds raised by The Raisers and HIPA are for the extra's which are not provided by the school budget. We aim to raise as much money as possible each year so we can keep providing the school with these 'special' items that make the children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting.

Many things we take for granted for example playground markings and playground equipment, computers and IPADs are all items the PTA has raised money for in the past and without this fundraising the children would not have as many resources available to support their learning. We would love you to join us if you are interested in helping out even if your time is limited.

Like most PTAs the majority of funds are raised through the events. Some of the most popular events are the Christmas Shopping Evening (November), children's Discos (1 per term), The Summer Fete and our annual Sponsored events. We have also printed tea towels and run many cake sales and raffles. We are always looking to plan new events so fresh ideas are always welcomed.

The money we raise is usually spent fairly quickly. That way you can be sure the money raised is supporting the school and your child will feel the benefits. You can always guarantee that our Executive Head teacher, Mrs Davey, has a shopping list full of items that the school would like to purchase. Most of the time it will be for resources to improve a particular area of the curriculum or the school environment, such as the outdoor 'Castle' at the Infant school and the climbing equipment at the Junior School.

As we are a registered Charity and in order to run events we hold full liability insurance, are members of PTA UK and we can benefit from claiming Gift Aid and take advantage of charity matched giving schemes. If you work for a company that takes part in the matched giving schemes, please let us know.



## How can you get involved?

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through the Parents Association.

Offering to help with events during the year is so valuable – it really is a case of ‘many hands make light work.’ It doesn’t matter if you can’t help on a regular basis, or even if you can’t come into school.

You can of course volunteer to be a committee member and put your views and ideas forward. This is also a great way to meet new people and have a sociable evening with a ‘cup of tea and a biscuit’. We meet once a term for an hour or so.

Here are a few other ways you can help:

- Offering to organise and plan an event
- Run a stall at an event
- Help with refreshments
- Dance the night away at the Discos with the children
- Make cakes
- Decorate a float for the Carnival
- Do you know your flowers? Help with the plant and bulb sales
- Have a bounce at the Sponsored Bounce or count the children bouncing
- Watch a Magician
- Be a Quiz Master
- Sell uniform
- Or be creative and come up with new ideas for the school that we have not tried before
- Even become Treasurer, Secretary or Chair of the Committee

We really couldn’t achieve what we do without the support of parents so if you are interested in joining the PTA please speak to your child’s class teacher, someone in the school office or member of the leadership team and they will be happy to introduce you to some of the parents who run the PTA.

We hope you know a little more about your Parents Association, and on behalf of all the children, we would like to thank you, for your very valuable support which enriches their learning experiences and makes their time in school so enjoyable.

**We advertise all our events through the school newsletter on the dates list and on the school website so please watch out for new events coming up this term.**

**Thank you for taking the time to read our leaflet,  
Havelock Helping Hands.**