



Dear Cheapside Parents,

As this school term draws to a close, I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone on the PTA committee, everyone that helped and of course to you all for supporting our PTA events. The PTA is all about the children. That's why we all give up so much of our own time to help and support.

When I put myself forward to be Chairman in September 2022, my main aim was to do things a little differently. I knew that I couldn't always be around to lead every event as I work full-time in a very demanding job which at times takes all that I have. I wanted to create a PTA where lots of people did as much as they could when they were able to, and I'm pleased with how things have changed. Having each year group run an event and a class sale has spread the load out considerably. I've been able to set a plan for the year and offer support and guidance where needed whilst leaving the running of events to the brilliant class reps and committee members.

For a period of time in 2023 & 2024, I navigated the terminal illness of my wonderful Dad and I was often far away, both physically and mentally. The fact that things didn't completely grind to a halt demonstrates how much the PTA is not about one person. The rest of the PTA committee kept things moving, I will be forever grateful to them for this.

It's been an incredible journey, and I would highly recommend the experience but it's time for me to take a step back as I need to focus more on my job and my family, also the planning application that I got approved in 2024 really needs turning into a building project! I also think that some fresh blood is required to bring new ideas and energy. Our dependable Treasurer Pip will be stepping away also after three years in charge of the finances. Pip has exciting plans involving foreign shores, I couldn't have asked for a better right-hand woman for the past three years.

Therefore, I'd love you all to have a think over the summer about whether you'd take over the helm either as chairman or treasurer or any other role. In prior years, as far as I can recall, the chairman role was always shared between two co-chairmen which worked well. There may also be other roles on the committee to fill as other people leave the school. Whilst my son is leaving year six this week, my daughter is only one year into her Cheapside journey, so I'll still be around. I will do a full hand-over and be on hand to help. The one event I have led for three years is the summer fair and if the new chair(s) would like me to continue to organise this event, I'm more than happy to do so.

We will be holding the PTA's AGM on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7:15pm** in the school hall and will combine this with a bit of a get together of both new and old parents. **Put this date in your diary**, as always, wine and nibbles will be a feature of the evening!

The PTA is critical to our school. We raise a lot of money each year which the school has become more and more in need of. Get involved, it's very rewarding and you will meet some lovely people. You can contact me on 07786 440044 if you'd like to ask any questions or would be interested in any of the roles.

Have a happy, healthy and relaxing summer holiday.

Best wishes

Hannah

Chairman Cheapside PTA

I asked the current committee members to complete the sentence, ***"I am a member of the PTA because....."***. Here are some of the replies I received:

***"it's a great way to meet other parents and organise some really lovely events for the families of our school to get together and have fun whilst raising money for our children"***

***"I want to give back to school and enhance the children's experiences at school. I have made some great friends from helping the PTA too, so it's a win-win!"***

***It's a great way to meet other parents and do something valuable for the school that's such a huge part of my kids' lives. Although time outside of work is precious and far between, its something I can do that benefits my whole family and shows my kids that their school life is important to me too."***

***"it's a good way to meet people outside of your class. It's a "feel good" to be involved and help the school when and where you can. It's also Fun and the PTA has lovely people in it.!"***

***"Seeing the enjoyment on the kids faces at a school disco / summer fair / movie night that you've helped to organise makes the effort involved seem miniscule. I can't imagine our school without the PTA and I'm glad to be part of it."***