

Letter to parents from Mrs Statham

Dear parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles and cousins....

I thought I would write to explain about the PTA situation at our wonderful school.

I moved to York from Manchester in 2000 and my eldest son Daniel started in Reception class here at St George's.

I was teaching part time at a different school and I volunteered at St George's ~ hearing children read etc.

At that time, there was a thriving PTA at St George's with at least 15 members. I became a member of the PTA and we held many fundraising events such as race nights, curry and quiz nights, family beetle drives, children's discos etc.

As the children of the parents on the PTA moved through school it became apparent that there would be no more parents to fill the places. The community at that time was very mobile with a large percentage of families from the local barracks and the university.

The new parents were unable to commit to belonging to a PTA as they felt their time in York was temporary.

When I became the Headteacher of St George's in 2016, we only had 3 members on the PTA. These 3 members spent a huge amount of time trying to recruit for new members.

What parents told us at that time was that they were happy to do things at school but they didn't want to belong to an 'official group.'

A PTA has to be run very strictly and needs a chair, a treasurer and a secretary. There are a statutory number of meetings each year and there has to be an annual general meeting. Parents, at that time, told us that they felt this took the fun away from organising things and that they were worried in case all of the events then fell to a small number of people.

I then decided that the best model to adopt would be to assume that ALL parents were on the 'PTA.' We could keep this very informal and ALL parents could get together with their class and parent friends and organise events to support school.

I also thought it would work if school sent out 'Can You Help' notices at various times to harness the amazing skills and talents of our parents.

For example, some parents are clearing the land at the back of the field but they may not wish to organise a disco. Some parents organised a brilliant disco (pre Covid) but they may not wish to be involved in a different event.

So.....you all have unique skills and talents. You all want to support school. We are so blessed to have so many amazing families that want to do so much for their child's school and community.

Keep bringing your ideas to us. If you want to organise anything to raise money ~ or something just for fun for all the families ~ please let us know!

AND IF ANYONE WANTS TO START AN OFFICIAL PTA – PLEASE DO!!!!

THANK YOU for everything that you do for school.

Mrs Statham