



## A Beginner's Guide to Camp School Parents' Association.

If you find yourself confused by talk of Camp School Cafés, Ice Cream Fridays, School Fairs and other goings-on then this is the guide for you...

**So, what exactly is the Parents' Association?** Well, the short answer is YOU! Every parent/carer with a child at Camp is a member of the Parent's Association.

**And what do we do?** We run all sorts of events and activities throughout the year to raise funds for the school: the PA have just made a payment of £3,200 to school to fund new playground equipment, and £200 to each year group to subsidise their class trips. In recent years we have funded the sensory room, Reception reading sheds, iPads, a portable oven, authors for book week, significant funding for books, Christmas pantomimes, play equipment, school trips, parties, birthday books for every child, Christmas gifts, ice lollies on sports day, etc. etc. Our input is a valuable addition to school life and greatly enhances the children's school experience. And none of it would be possible without help from our parent/carer community...

**Who runs the PA?** The PA is run by a committee of three people. The current PA committee is:

- Chair, Meg Bellingham (Ben Year 5, Katie Year 3, Lila Year 1)
- Vice Chair, Andi Yoxall (Thomas year 4, William Year 1)
- Treasurer, Ruth Cassidy (Josh Year 3, Elizabeth Reception)

This current team are happy to stay in post for another year, which is great news!

The team are heavily dependent on other people volunteering their time in order to take on jobs – without other people taking on jobs, then activities and events will not be able to occur as the three named people cannot make it happen without support. We often struggle to get enough volunteers to help organise and run events and this makes it tough for the regular volunteers. We need more people coming forward to help, so if you haven't helped before, then think about giving it a go. Remember all our children benefit from the work that the PA can do! If it ceases to function, it is the children who will lose out as many of these costs could not be covered by the school – they just won't happen.

### **So what events/activities are there?**

**Fairs:** Our main activities are the Summer and Christmas Fairs, which take place in June and December respectively. In case you haven't been before, these are great fun for all the family with crafts, gifts, pocket money and cake stalls, a games arcade, face-painting, tombola, lucky dip, refreshments and hot food and many, many other things to entertain young and old. At Christmas, children can visit Santa in his grotto and we also have a special supervised room where children can choose and/or wrap their very own secret Christmas gift for their parents/carers!

**Cafés:** We would also like to run regular cafés (usually one per half-term). Some, like the Macmillan Coffee Morning, are to raise money for charity, while others, in the case of the Camp School Cafés, are run by the parents/carers of one or two year groups (e.g. Nursery & Reception, Years 1 & 2, etc.) and offer an opportunity for everyone to socialise over tea and cake! These currently take place in the dining room on a Thursday afternoon. All children are welcome.

**The Camp Out!** 2015 marked the year for the very first Camp School camp out. The event was a massive success with “evening only” and “overnight” campers where we managed to raise funds for the school as well as having a fantastic evening!

**Ice Cream Friday and the Yearbook:** In addition, from Easter during the summer and sometimes in the Autumn first half term, the PA runs ‘Ice Cream Friday’. Ice creams and lollies are available to buy after school in the playground for 50p and the children can stay and play until 4pm. All profits from the sale of the ices go towards funding the School Yearbook, which comes out at the end of the Summer term, and records the children’s achievements over the year with pictures, photos and comments. Every child is given a copy at the end of term and extra copies are available to buy (the more we sell, the more money we raise!).

**Extra activities:** In addition to the above, we also run a number of occasional fund raising activities, which have included Christmas cards/ tea towels. We run a crèche during the Parent’s Evening, provide materials for Christmas tree decorations, run a Mother’s Day Afternoon, run a hugely popular quiz night, etc, etc!

**Vouchers:** School collects Morrison’s and Sainsbury’s supermarket vouchers when on offer and during these times a collection box can be found opposite the office, or hand them to the school office.

**AGM:** Our Annual General Meeting takes place in the Autumn term (see date below), and is a chance for us to review the previous year’s activities, sign-off the accounts, set important dates for the forthcoming year and start to think about what other things we’d like to do. In addition to the AGM, we hold adhoc PA meetings to give everyone the chance to attend/contribute. Please do come along and have your say!

**How can you get involved?** As you have probably gathered, we are always looking for volunteers and helpers.

We need people to

- bake and/or bring items to sell/eat at our cafés, fairs and other events
- help to make decorations and run craft/activity tables for the children at the fairs
- help set up the fairs, mind the stalls and tidy up afterwards
- donate raffle prizes and bring in items for the various stalls and tombola (if you have a useful contact or work for a business prepared to sponsor an event/prize please let us know)
- come to PA meetings and tell us what you would like to see happening
- put up posters to advertise the fair (telling all your friends is also really useful)
- And last, but not least, to come along to the events with your family and friends and enjoy yourself. If you are unable to help or attend events, but can provide match funding from your employer, or would like to make a cash donation to show your support, please get in touch.

**How do I find out more?** We would encourage you to join [The Campers – Camp School Parents Facebook page](#) as this is the quickest way to get updates/ requests for support out to people when help is needed as people organising the events can end up very pushed for time. If you are not on Facebook, you can also visit <https://campschoolparents.wordpress.com/> We do our best to keep this as updated as possible; however it is not possible to put everything from the Facebook page onto the website. Please feel free to ask the PA Committee if you spot them in the playground or you can leave a message in the school office.

Thank you in advance for all your help and we look forward to seeing you very soon!

### Dates for your diary:

29 September - Year 4 Camp Café

**AGM – 26 September, 7pm in the school dining room**

19th January - Reception & Year 5 Buddies Cafe

9th March - Year 1 Camp Café

11th May - Year 2 Camp Café

29th June - Year 3 Camp Café

### PA Non-Uniform Days - Every Friday Before Half Term

21st October - optional Fancy Dress £1

10th February - optional onesie/pyjamas £1

26th May - own clothes fair fundraiser (no cash donations) - summer fair donations

### In-School Social Events

Friday 14th October - Ladies Only Evening

Friday 11th November - Christmas Shopping Event

### Family Events

Christmas Fair - 3rd December

Summer Fair - 17th June

Camp Out - 8th July

More dates and information for the next events to follow shortly .....