



THE FRIENDS OF
JOHN BALL
PRIMARY SCHOOL

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1017014

hello@friendsofjohnball.org

www.friendsofjohnballschoo.co.uk

July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to John Ball School

This information has been put together by The Friends of John Ball especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved from the start! This letter provides you with information about The Friends, the school Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and lets you know how you can get involved.

Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a PTA that's an integral part of the school community. Over the last 4 years we have raised over £200,00, which has been used to supplement the school's budget - spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising though. The Friends of John Ball exists to provide closer links between home and school, and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It's fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers.

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available. All families are automatically members of the Friends of John Ball when their child joins our school.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee consists of trustees and ordinary committee members. The Committee meets on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events.

The Committee also holds open PTA meetings once a term that any member can come along to, find out what the association is planning, share ideas and get involved. We will announce these dates in the school newsletter, JBuzz, and via our social media channels, so be sure to follow us to stay up to date!

Committee Members

Below is a list of who's who on our committee at the moment. We always welcome new members, so do get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Chairs

Ling Marshall and Penny Boulyaphol

Ling.Marshall@friendsofjohnball.org

Penny.Boulyaphol@friendsofjohnball.org

Deputy Chair

Tom Houlbrooke

Tom.Houlbrooke@friendsofjohnball.org

Treasurer

Maxime Senecaut

Maxime.Senecaut@friendsofjohnball.org

Secretaries

Helena Kirk and Samantha White

Helena.Kirk@friendsofjohnball.org

Samantha.White@friendsofjohnball.org

Communications

Richard Ferraris

Richard.Ferraris@friendsofjohnball.org

Events

Fatima Benchaliah

events@friendsofjohnball.org

Volunteers

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the association. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at an event, marshalling at our annual fun run, or even providing professional services such as design or copywriting (just a few examples) would be invaluable. If you would like to join us please complete our [online sign-up form](#), come along to our next meeting and speak to a committee member, or email us on hello@friendsofjohnball.org.

Class WhatsApp Groups

Our class WhatsApp groups provide a vital link to the Friends and other parents and carers within your classes. We use these groups to share information about upcoming Friends events as well as useful day to day information – such as remembering to bring wellies in for Forest School!

If you would like to join your class group, please provide us with your details via our online sign-up and consent form [here](#).

Class Representatives

Our class reps play a very important role, providing a link between individual classes and parents, and the PTA committee. The support from class reps is vital when it comes to organising our main events, from selling tickets to organising rotas of help. They also set up and manage the WhatsApp group for each class. We really could not manage without them!

We are looking for volunteers to become the class rep for the following classes:

- Nursery
- Reception Blue
- Reception Green
- Reception Purple

If you would like to volunteer to become the rep for your child's class, please indicate this when completing the online [sign-up form](#) or email us at hello@friendsofjohnball.org.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in October and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members.

Support from Parentkind

The Friends of John Ball is a member of Parentkind, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance to over 13,500 parent associations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Membership includes comprehensive insurance cover by Zurich Insurance plc for all our association run events and gives access to support and advice on running the association plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips.

Parentkind also provide resources for Parents, if you would like to sign up to their Parent e-Bulletin please visit <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Signup>

How we raise money

Like most PTAs, most of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

- The Early Years Halloween Disco
- Christmas Fair
- Heath for Health Community Fun Run
- Summer Fair
- Regular Cake Sales
- School Quiz Night
- Home Pizza Nights

Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes and auction lots, or even your professional services and skills.

Other ways you can support us

There are other ways you can support us, as we understand that not everyone is able to offer their time. These include:

- Regular Giving - monthly donations via our [JustGiving page](#)
- [Easyfundraising](#) - raise money while you shop at no extra cost to you
- [Amazon Smile](#) - donate to our charity at no extra cost
- One-off donations - always welcome via our [JustGiving page](#)
- [Match funding](#) - get support from your employers
- [Payroll Giving](#) - give money without paying tax on it!

To find out more about how to sign up to these, please visit our website at www.friendsofjohnballschoo.co.uk/fundraising

How we spend the money we raise

The PTA committee is responsible for deciding how our PTA funds are spent. Usually, the School Leadership Team provides a 'wish list' of items that the school would like us to consider funding.

We also invite input from parents too, so if you have an idea of something that would benefit all the students in the school, please do share it with the Committee. We can discuss it at a meeting and feed back.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building, as this is the responsibility of the school. Our Constitution commits the association to spending money on things that will benefit the children directly.

Some of the items we have donated to the school are listed below:

- Playground equipment
- Computer equipment
- Library software
- School trip subsidies
- Literacy scheme books

How we keep you up to date

We include regular updates in the school newsletter, JBuzz, which is emailed out weekly. This includes information on upcoming events and dates as well as details of the help we are looking for at larger events. Following an event, we always write to let you know how much was raised, and when we reach our target, we tell you what the money will be spent on.

We also have a website, www.friendsofjohnballschoo.co.uk, where you'll find all the latest news and information.

You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to our school!