



Welcome to

**Cheddar First
School FPTA**

**Charity Number –
1154707**

Parentkind
Member Association

Welcome to Cheddar First School

This information has been put together by Cheddar First School FPTA 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! This booklet provides you with information about Cheddar First School FPTA and lets you know how you can join in.

Why do we have a FPTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have an FPTA that's an integral part of the school community. Over the last 3 years we have raised £37,750 which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience as well as supplementing school resources and facilities. This has included music workshops, uniform swap shop, helping to pay for school trips as well as Christmas presents for all children and the year 4 leavers gifts and party.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. Cheddar First School FPTA 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 Cheddar First School FPTA when their child joins our school.

Attached a reminder of the '6 reasons why...' it's great to get involved.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee consists of a chair, treasurer and secretary.

The Committee meet on a termly basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events. These are all open meetings, any member can come along to find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

Volunteers

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the association. Every little helps and could be one hour assisting at an event, wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets to name just a few examples that would be invaluable. If you would like to join us please come along to our next meeting or email us – cheddarfirstschoolfpta@gmail.com or speak to a committee member.

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. We really could not manage without them. However, we don't currently have one for every class so please consider taking up the role. This is primarily communicating details of upcoming events etc to make sure that as many people as possible know when events are happening.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in Sept/Oct 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. We will be holding an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) on Wednesday 23rd October, which will be for people to find out more about how they could get involved even in a small way.

Support from Parentkind

Our FPTA 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 FPTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

Christmas/Summer Raffles

Chocolate Bingo

May Fayre

Cake Sales

Christmas Cards

Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes or offers of services and skills.

We also raise money through Easyfundraising, Asdas donation scheme and Stikins labels, details of these are on attached flyers. The clothes bank also raises money for the FPTA.

How we spend the money we raise

The PTA committee are responsible for deciding how our PTA funds are spent. Usually the School Leadership Team provide a 'wish list' of items that the school would like us to consider funding. Teachers also put in requests for things that they would like the funds to be spent on and these are then discussed before they are agreed to.

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. 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

- Providing 2nd Hand Uniform Shed
- Creating year 1 and fledglings' areas
- Science Mural
- Refurbishing the disabled toilet
- Christmas gifts for all the children
- Leavers gifts and party for the year 4 leavers

How we keep you up to date

Information on upcoming events and support that is needed is emailed home and dates of events are put on the news letter from school.

If you have access to Facebook, please join our group - [Cheddar First School FPTA News](#).

If you would like to join our Volunteers Whatsapp group please let either committee member know or email cheddarfirstschoolfpta@gmail.com. This is used to help spread information about upcoming events and we ask that people then forward it on to the individual class Whatsapp groups across the school.

Special thanks go to the following volunteers who have helped over the last year planning, organising and supporting events/projects:

Rach C	Joanna B	Laura C	Alice A	Joanna P	Paula B
Becca	Deenie	Naomi P	Zoe C	Hayley KP	Ollie P
Posy	Galeyna	John S	Lydia	Edd	Steve C
Dom L	Gary D	Ruth D	Jean	Richard	Rach B
Adrian	Martin	Carol W	Amy C	Katie L	

We would also like to thank everyone who has offered and given their time to support our fundraising events (cake sales, ice cream sales etc etc) as without you they wouldn't be able to run.

