



PTA Welcome Pack

A WARM WELCOME TO YOUR PTA

**A NEW SCHOOL YEAR MEANS NEW BEGINNINGS, NEW ADVENTURES,
NEW FRIENDSHIPS, AND NEW CHALLENGES.
THE SLATE IS CLEAN AND ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN – *Denise Witmer***

We will keep this brief – we know that everyone is busy and there is a lot to do before the start of the school year and before you join our school community! We just wanted to take a few moments to introduce ourselves and to give you some key information about the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) ahead of the new school year.

Why does the School have a PTA

Our group is called 'Friends of The Discovery School' – or FODS for short. We are a committee of volunteers made up of parents, teachers and staff members, to run our registered charity.

The main function of our PTA is to support the school by raising as much money as we can to enhance, enrich and improve learning experiences for the children. We also provide those 'little extras' that make school memorable, from Easter egg hunts to leavers gifts. The new starters in Year R also receive a small gift at the start of term to help them with their transition into school life.

We also exist to bring the communities of school and home closer together because it makes sense for parents to be involved in the life of their chosen school.

Lastly, we're here for the simple reason that we want to get together socially, meet new people and have fun!

We might sound like an abstract group of people, but we're parents, carers, friends and allies – just like you. Not so long ago, we were new too.

What does the PTA do?

Over the past few years, we have proudly donated over £70,000 to the school.

This has funded the supply of 30 iPads, outdoor play equipment, sound & lighting rigs for the school productions and the adventure trail.

This year we reached our target to raise over £15,000 to put towards exciting new projects that will be announced soon!

In previous years we have managed to donate £11,000 for 30 iPads and paid for outdoor play equipment.

As well as this, we pay for a variety of small gifts and activities for the children to enjoy throughout the year!

Our team of volunteers can provide all this by organising a range of fundraising events throughout the year – including school fayre's, fireworks, book sales, raffles, quiz nights and other family events.

What are the PTA Goals for 2024/2025?

This year we are aiming to raise additional funds for the completion of the all-weather **MUGA sports pitch**.

Another project we are aiming for is 'Zones of Play' – Each zone in the playground has a different theme and activity section with equipment.

Having a diverse world of playground zones can help change the dynamic of the playground. Introducing new markings that children may not have seen before, could be a great way in getting them to engage in new activities, and even start to build new relationships with other students.

This has already been achieved in key stage 2 and we want to push this to other key stages.

A small project is providing 'Eco Books' for the non-fiction in our school library.

How can you help?



Join the Committee

Be part of an important friendly team! By joining a committee like this one, you'll be part of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee, which aims to create a culture that values everybody and tries to develop a school environment that is fair, transparent and accessible. Without a committee, the PTA would not be able to continue. This does not require a lot of your time – we meet a few times a year, have fun organising and communicate via WhatsApp.



Donate your Time

You could help by selling raffle tickets, set up for events, run a stall, paint props, or come to a meeting to help us plan the next event! Do you have a professional skill that could help us out? Every little helps. You don't even have to come into the school – many of our tasks can be done at home.



Attend our Events

You can help by attending our exciting Events, which we plan for our community! Come and enjoy – buy raffle tickets – support our fundraising efforts simply by taking part and having fun!

Keeping in Touch - We have a range of methods for keeping in touch with our parents:

Facebook group	Parents of The Discovery School KH Whilst this group is not used exclusively for PTA updates, we do post reminders of upcoming school events and meetings, as well as volunteering opportunities. Worth joining!
Book bags	Occasionally we may send information home in your child's book bags, so please be sure to check these regularly.
Newsletters	We issue several newsletters throughout the year
School Website	We have a dedicated PTA page on the website
Noticeboards	We have two PTA noticeboards by the school gates – please check these regularly for updates and information about upcoming events

Introduction to your PTA Chairs of 2024

Welcome from Selina and Sophie,

It has been a year since we volunteered for the exciting role of becoming the chairs of the committee and we can certainly say, we are thoroughly enjoying every moment!

Our goals are to continue to help support the operation of the charity and the effective planning for all the new and exciting events throughout the year. We aim to continue to raise the all-important funds to support the school, the teachers and the children.

We both have children within the school and by carrying out this role, with the help of the committee and volunteers, we feel we are contributing to the memories of our children's school lives!

Current FODS Committee Members

Chairperson - Joint - Sophie Elphick and Selina Birch

Treasurer - Steven Clack

Secretary - Joanna La Roche

Vice Treasurer - Claire Caplan

Committee Members - Sarah Mason, Sarah Palmer, Alison Stannard, Marc Sargent, Amy Russell, Emily Rimmer, Jill Smukowich-Sargent, Lou Bettridge, Sarah Brett.

JOIN THE TEAM AND GET INVOLVED!

We are always looking for volunteers and committee members to help make all our work possible.

This does not mean attending every meeting and volunteering for every event
- we would benefit from 10 minutes to 2 hours...There are many ways to help.

If this is something you would like to get involved in, please send over your contact details to discovery.fods@gmail.com so that we can contact you regarding future events!

How can you get involved?

The more people become involved, the more we can achieve and the easier it will be.

Even if you have younger children at home, or only a small amount of time, could you come to a meeting, help set up an event, serve food or design a poster? Perhaps you have a professional skill you could help us out with? You don't have to come into the school; many of our volunteering tasks can be done from home.

If you would like more information about getting involved with the PTA or have any questions in this welcome pack or upcoming events – please get in touch: discovery.fods@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you all soon!

Kindest Regards
Selina and Sophie

