

October 2020

Spare time in 2020?

What a year it's been! Who could have predicted?! In the spirit of we're all in this together, your school needs you, and so does the Friends of West Pennard School group! You've no doubt heard of a PTA – at West Pennard, we have the FWPS. And we need your help. The aims of the FWPS are to support the school and our children, to fundraise, to build relationships between parents, staff and the wider West Pennard community.

We're a registered charity set up to support the education of pupils at this wonderful school, and we do that through fundraising and supporting as much as we can. Anyone is welcome, not just parents and teachers, and that's why we're "Friends of" rather than a Parent Teacher Association.

The good news is, as a parent or carer of a pupil at the school, or a member of staff, you automatically become a member! We have a Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fwpsch/>) and there are regular updates on school newsletters. Beyond that, it's really up to you how involved you want to be. But we would ask that you consider being more involved if you can. The FWPS is a key part of the school community and the money we've raised – tens of thousands of pounds in total – all goes towards improving resources to enhance our children's education. We have recently contributed to the cost of Chromebooks, the stage for school performances, travel for school trips and all sorts of other enrichment activities that help give a rounded education to everyone at the school.

We'll be holding our AGM soon, and this is our biggest plea of the year – we need your help! Money is great, and we definitely need that, but we also need your time. We have a committee with various positions that will need to be elected, and we're always looking for support whether you can donate a few ad hoc hours or something more specific for a particular event. The committee only meets once every half term and there are groups to support events or fundraisers who might meet separately, so it's never a huge time commitment.

Of course, this year, meetings are currently virtual, so we hope you'll be able to join us. We need new ideas – this year with COVID-19 more than ever! – so please do join us. Logging on is commitment-free. We're a friendly bunch, and we know it can be hard to get involved when you might not know anyone. That doesn't last long!

This year's AGM will be held on Zoom and we'd love to have as many people involved as possible. It will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 11th November, which we hope is accessible for many. If you would like to join us, please email friendsofwestpennardschool@gmail.com and we'll send you the log-in details.

Many thanks

Rowen Campbell

FWPS Secretary