

West Ewell Infants School and Nursery  
PSA (Parents Staff Association)  
An Open Letter to Parent from the Chair of the PSA  
Tuesday, 09 February 2010

Dear Parents

I write to you today as the new Chair of the West Ewell Infants School and Nursery PSA, by way of an introduction to me, but also in an effort to raise the profile of the PSA with the parents, some of whom may not know or be aware of what we do and why.

My name is David Mayall, I am the Father of Hannah in year 1 (Chestnut), and will soon have Isabelle in Nursery. Having now been in the Chairperson's position for some 4-5 months, and only as a member of the PSA for less than a year, and I use the term "member" loosely, because we are all members by virtue of being parents at the school, it strikes me what a fantastic association it is, and how much better it could be given greater support by a wider body of parents.

"How could it be better"? You may ask. Well, firstly by far greater attendances to the PSA meetings, bringing a broader spectrum of opinion and diversity in, and secondly, by much greater voluntary support at the events that the PSA organise. All events like muffin days, discos, cake sales, fairs, quiz nights etc, are all arranged and ran by a small group of committed volunteers, the same group time and time again, giving up their own valuable time to make these types of event happen, for the sole benefit of the school and ultimately our children.

Talking of volunteers, it is at this point that I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to a couple of the volunteers/PSA members. Firstly Caroline Osbond, who worked tirelessly as the past PSA Chairperson, and secondly Hayley Bray as past Treasury, who again provided immense support. Both continue to give their time in support of the PSA and its events. I would also like to introduce Ruth Ransom, who has taken over the treasurer's position from Hayley Bray, very best wishes Ruth.

Next, and principally, I wish to thank Alison Mitchelmore, who's contribution both as Secretary of the PSA and in organising events is immeasurable, and without whom I am sure the PSA would be a much lesser place. I also wish to thank Amina Baksh Choudhury, whose efforts & contributions alongside Alison and in many other ways as part of the PSA is quite simply beyond reproach. There are also many other volunteers, too many to mention, that contribute both daily and weekly, to whom I also wish to pass on my sincere thanks. Whilst I accept that the PSA meetings being held in the evenings, are not available to all due to their family/work commitments etc, and this is perfectly understandable, so, in order to make the PSA broadly more available to the parents, there has been a representative of the PSA at the last two parents forum meetings run by Lindsay Handcock, and this will continue through all future meetings run by the Head.

This is in response to a request for a daytime PSA meeting, which is not really viable due to the work commitments of the current principal committee members. You all also have access to class representatives, and to the PSA directly via its own e-mail address at [westewellpsa@hotmail.com](mailto:westewellpsa@hotmail.com), further, you can leave messages at the main reception, the PSA have their own post box in the reception area, so please feel free to post any suggestions or questions. The PSA pigeon hole in the office is also monitored regularly.

Having said all of that, I find apathy hard to tolerate, especially when all that we do is for the benefit of not only our own children, but your children also. The association lives or dies by virtue of the support it gets, its contributors and volunteers, without whom it cannot survive for the betterment of our children.

ultimately, those people that volunteer and work day in day out, week in week out for the PSA, will eventually pass through the school, and/or become tired of being those sole faces and contributors to it, and unless fresh faces step up and come through to

support and become a part of the association it will fail, and this ultimately will have a detrimental effect to the school and our children.

To give you a flavour of difference their efforts have made and/or will make to our children, the PSA has recently approved a £12500.00 funding pot back to the school, to cover the following funding requests:

- Refurbishment of the old kitchen area, to make this a children's kitchen/cooking area

- 10 new laptop computers

- Year 1 outdoor area upgrades

- Reception outdoor area upgrades

- New playground equipment

- Library re-carpeting, in addition to the £900.00 for new library resources

- Increased year group funding to subsidise trips etc further funding will be made available to the school as the academic year progresses, and as future PSA events realise funds. Please keep an eye out for the school newsletters, and school Website, for advice on future PSA events. I cannot stress enough the importance of your support for and to the PSA, both as volunteers, be it as part time contributors/volunteers to the meeting and/or events, but also by attending and supporting those events planned.

I shall now climb off from my soapbox, and if you have taken the effort to read this far, may I take the opportunity to thank you for listening, please now consider what I have said, and provide the necessary support the association so desperately needs.

**Remember, it is the parents association, run by the parents for the benefit of the school and our children. Your comments and opinions matter. Be a part of it, come to the meetings or talk/contact us, help where you can, to quote Tesco "Every little helps", believe me it really does, and help us to help our children, and to make the PSA even better than it is.**

Kind regards

David Mayall

Chair - The West Ewell Infants School & Nursery PSA