



Al-Ashraf Primary School

Newsletter February 2018

Introduction from the New Deputy Head

Asww

Dear Parents

I am delighted to be able to write my first newsletter as the Deputy Head of Al-Ashraf Primary School. JZK to all the staff and children have made me feel very welcome and I feel privileged to be joining the school community

I strongly believe achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand, to ensure each child's excellent progress. I hope to get to know the pupils, staff and school community better and will do all I can to meet the needs of all our pupils.

In order for our children to find the school a positive and rewarding experience, partnerships with parents is vitally important. I will be available in the playground most mornings and afternoons to speak to parents and greet children. Please do not hesitate by approaching me if you have any queries, concerns or if there is anything I can do to help and support you in your child's learning and school life. If you prefer a more formal setting, arrangements can be made to meet privately at a time of your convenience. I am keen to establish an open dialogue with parents and a healthy line of communication is fundamental in achieving this goal.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, which will give you an insight on what's been going on at Al-Ashraf this term and inform you of upcoming events next term.

JK and Wsw

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Zainab Patel
Deputy Head

Friday Reading Morning

Reception, Year 1 and 2 parents have had the chance to pop into school on Friday mornings to read with their child. JKZ to all parents who have attended the shared reading sessions. InA we hope to carry on with this next term. We encourage shared reading at home for parents who cannot come in to school. Benefits of shared reading include building essential literacy skills, spellings, reading comprehension, and vocabulary and fosters positive attitudes towards reading.

Year 5 and 6 DT Project

As part of their DT Project, Year 5 and 6 children took part in their very own 'Apprentice Style' challenge.

Throughout the term, the children worked hard in designing a product or service, calculating the costings, advertising their product or service and producing their product to appeal to their target market. Children were split into 8 groups with each team using their own initiative to formulate a business. Each group was given £10 to start up their business. They sold a range of home-made cakes, drinks and warm snacks. We even had a group come up with a 'car wash' initiative! MA, collectively they made a profit of £231.58!

Safer Internet Day 2017

Al-Ashraf Primary School was proud to sponsor the worldwide Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6th February 2018. The aim of this day was to raise awareness and to make online computing safe for everyone. For more information on how to help your child stay safe online, please visit <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>



Reading
Is
Soooooo
Delicious!



Changes to the school timetable

I would like to remind all parents of the changes to the school timetable. Please note doors will now close at the earlier time of **8.30am**. Please ensure children arrive to school on time so that lessons can commence promptly. As lunch will be slightly later for KS1 children, can you please ensure they bring in an adequate snack for break time.



PE Sessions in Term 4

Al-Ashraf Primary School will be taking part in a new PE initiative kindly sponsored by The FA Lidl Skills Programme. These sessions will take place every Wednesday after February half term for 6 weeks. Please can you ensure children bring their trainers into school on these days.



Post Ofsted Parents Meeting

Following the publication of the Ofsted report, a parents meeting was held on 28/01/2018. A summary of the meeting is available to view on our website at

<http://primary.al-ashraf.org.uk/downloads/summary-of-parents-meeting.pdf>

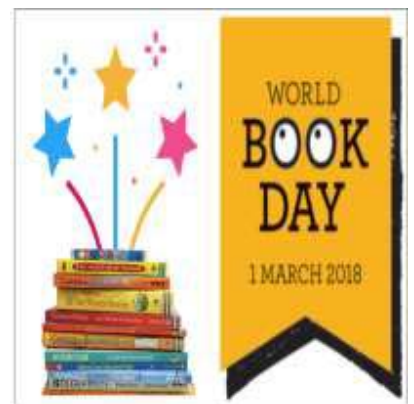
Governors are keen to encourage more parental involvement and they are pleased to announce the formation of a new Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Mrs Kathryn Akrouf (Rec and Year 1 mum) has kindly volunteered to set up this up. Please see the annex of the newsletter which includes an introduction from Mrs Akrouf.

**SUPPORT
OUR
SCHOOL**

**JOIN THE
PTA**

World Book Day

This is an annual event aimed at children and adults alike. The main aim of World Book Day is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and involve them in reading, by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own. With Ofsted's continuous drive to raise standards in reading, this is an initiative we are very keen to support. Therefore, we will be sending home a book voucher for your child which can be taken to a local bookseller and be used to pick one of TEN (exclusive, new and completely free) books. Or they can use it to get £1 off any other book.



This year we are encouraging children to dress up as one of the characters from their favourite books on **Thursday 1st March 2018**.

Sport Relief 2018

We will be supporting Sport Relief this year on **Friday 23rd March 2018**. This is when the great British public get active and have fun to help people change their lives. The money raised will help real people living incredibly difficult lives both here in the UK and across the world's poorest communities. We, as Muslims, should make use of every opportunity to help the needy and less fortunate. It is hoped that participation in this fundraising event will increase the children's awareness of the poor and the importance and great reward of helping such people. Pupils are being asked to donate £1 for the privilege of wearing sports attire.



Healthy Eating

At Al-Ashraf, we endeavour to promote healthy lifestyles through healthy eating. One of our Reception mums (a qualified nutritionist) has kindly compiled some advice for us:

HEALING THROUGH FOOD FOOD AS MEDICINE!

The food we eat has a huge impact on our health and wellbeing, whether we are conscious of it or not. Mostly all-natural food has healing properties. Becoming more aware of what we consume and the healing properties of food will help us to make necessary adjustments to meet the needs of our bodies. And it will help us to maintain and improve our health.

Nowadays our supermarkets are full of convenience - processed foods. Processed foods are high in sugar /salt, full of additives and preservatives, and contain trans fats such as hydrogenated oil which leads to diseases and obesity.

Our bodies are designed to have an internal PH of 7.365 (slightly alkaline). Unfortunately, most of the food we eat is far too acidic (pizza, chips, coffee, fizzy drinks, cakes and processed foods). To alkalisate your body, we must eat 70-80 % of alkaline foods and 30-20% acidic foods.

To keep it simple it would be good to keep in mind that plant foods such as fruit and vegetables is alkaline (natural whole foods), and animal and animal derived food such as dairy and food high in sugar content is acidic.

The acid - alkaline balance makes us realise how an excess of acid substances lead to an overweight and an unhealthy body.

More to follow on natural whole food / super foods - and their healing properties in next terms newsletter.



School Website

We have updated the school calendar on our website which shows the key events taking place this year. Additionally, please check the website regularly under the Class year tabs to see information relevant to your child's class.



RE Event – Judaism

On Tuesday 27th March 2018, children will learn and participate in activities related to Judaism as part of their RE lesson



Inset Day

Please note that school will be closed on Friday **16th March 2018** due to staff training.



Parents Evening

We have arranged parents evening on **26th April 2017**. Further details will be sent closer to the time. Please note that school will close at 1pm on this day.



Dates for your Diary

World Book Day - **Thursday 1st March 2018**

Sport Relief - **Friday 23rd March 2018**

RE event- Judaism - **Tuesday 27th March 2018**

Parents Evening - **Thursday 26th April 2017**



Farewell

I would like to say farewell to Mrs Khatun and Hasanara Apa, who will be sadly leaving us this term. May the Almighty reward them for their unwavering and committed service to our children. We wish them the best of luck for the future!

I would like to thank you personally for your continued commitment and support towards the staff and pupils at Al-Ashraf Primary School.

Al-Ashraf Parents and Teachers Association

My name is Mrs Kathryn Akrouf and I have volunteered to get the new Al-Ashraf PTA set up.

I am looking for any parents and teachers who would like to join. We will need one class representative from each year group (nursery through to year 6) and some staff representation. Please see below some more information which I hope will make you consider applying for a place.

Why are we setting up a PTA?

Most schools have a PTA to encourage closer links between home and school, and we want that for Al-Ashraf Primary School too.

Fundraising is usually considered the most important role of any PTA, so this will be no different at our school. I am sure that everyone is aware that resources are not abundant so fundraising is crucial. Decisions over where funds are spent will come from the PTA in mutual agreement with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Governors. Items like computers, playground equipment etc can be purchased with funds raised. Also, following the Ofsted report, the SLT and Governors need to focus on the required improvements as highlighted in the findings. We have been assured that capability is not the problem, capacity is. By forming a PTA, we create a team of parents/teachers who can constructively feedback to the Govs/SLT on parent/teacher suggestions to enhance the already great practices in place, but also to make suggestions on improvements where things aren't going so well. With the new SLT structure in place and assistance from a newly formed PTA we can, InshaAllah, look forward to a more positive inspection from Ofsted in the future.

The school needs more parent volunteers to help to bring it back to the Parent-led school it once was, and what most parents want it to be going forward. The PTA can assist with that process.

What will be the structure of the PTA?

The executive committee will be made up of:

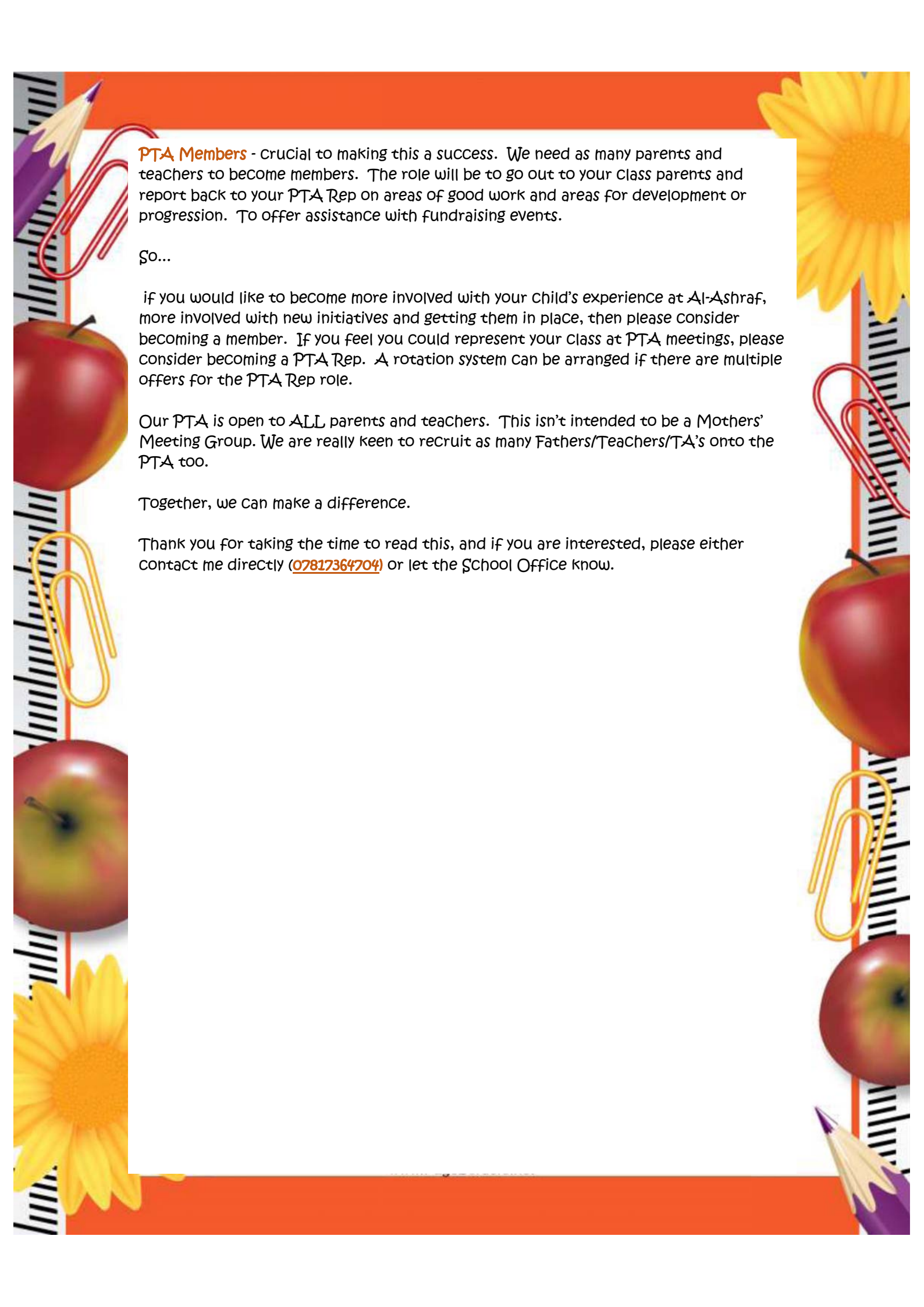
PTA Chairs x 2

PTA Representatives x 8

PTA Members (All parents and teachers are welcome to sign up as members)

Chairpersons - I will be Chair with Mrs Asma Pandor as joint Chair to share the workload. (These are initial posts to get us up and running. Periodically, they will be open for others to volunteer and take over once elected, or if myself or Asma can no longer commit to the role). Asma and I will meet the Head/Govs regularly to present feedback from the PTA meetings for consideration and action. Meeting minutes/events/open suggestions will be communicated to all parents in a clear and transparent format, as required, to ensure every parent/teacher is kept informed on developments.

PTA Class Reps (PTA Reps) - we are looking for at least 1 parent to represent each class. Some classes may be represented by more than one person. Teachers can also put themselves forward to represent the on the ground perspective. The role will be to gather all information from members (and other parents) in their class and prepare and feed that back to me/Asma to find common issues that can be taken forward. The PTA Reps will be asked to attend a PTA meeting to put forward the information gathered.



PTA Members - crucial to making this a success. We need as many parents and teachers to become members. The role will be to go out to your Class parents and report back to your PTA Rep on areas of good work and areas for development or progression. To offer assistance with fundraising events.

So...

if you would like to become more involved with your child's experience at Al-Ashraf, more involved with new initiatives and getting them in place, then please consider becoming a member. If you feel you could represent your class at PTA meetings, please consider becoming a PTA Rep. A rotation system can be arranged if there are multiple offers for the PTA Rep role.

Our PTA is open to ALL parents and teachers. This isn't intended to be a Mothers' Meeting Group. We are really keen to recruit as many Fathers/Teachers/TA's onto the PTA too.

Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and if you are interested, please either contact me directly ([07817364704](tel:07817364704)) or let the School Office know.