

# PTA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012

Welcome back to one and all! Now the school term is really under way we hope your children (and you!) have settled back into school life. A special welcome to all new parents who have joined the school this year.

## Sponsored Walk

First of all a thank you to all who braved the weather and turned up for the Sponsored Walk in Courtown Woods last month as well as all those who have donated so far. This year we are raising funds to develop school resources/activities and we would ask that any further donations be handed into the office as soon as possible!

## After-School

This term we are offering gymnastics/zumba and once again the after school activity on offer has proven very popular, with both the junior and senior classes full. Parents are reminded that these classes are due to commence this Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> October.

## SuperValu Bag Pack

Finally! It's taken several years however this year we have been very fortunate to be selected for a bag pack in Pettitt's SuperValu on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sat 20<sup>th</sup> October**. We will need a great deal of support from many parents to run this successfully as we need 4-5 people at any one time between the hours of 10am – 6pm both days. Please complete the form overleaf indicating when you are free ( Friday/Saturday am/pm) so that we can put together a rota. We would hope that each parent would be asked for 2 hours maximum providing we have enough volunteers. (NB: you could always team up with a friend in order to overcome childcare issues!)

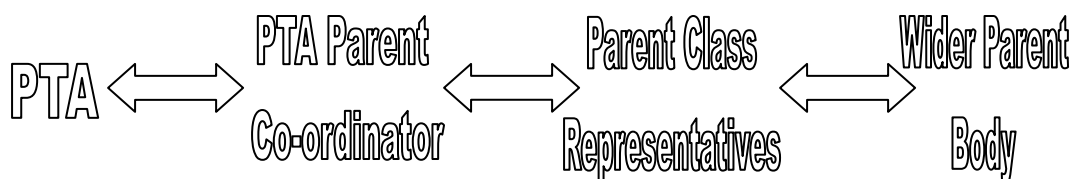
## AGM

This year our AGM will take place on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm**. All Welcome! We will provide an overview of last year, as well as elect the PTA members for this year. There are a number of spaces available so any interested parent please don't be shy! We will also give more information on the class parent representative role we are introducing.

## Class Parent Representatives

As our school has dramatically increased in size, and with often limited face-to-face contact amongst parents it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep the lines of communication open between the PTA and the wider parent body.

Many parents have suggested to us they would like to be more involved in the PTA without being formal members, and many more have offered their help and support to the workings of the PTA on an informal basis. Our idea is to try and place some structure around these offers of support with the introduction of Parent Class Representatives, co-ordinated by a member of the PTA. In this way information will be shared via:



**Anticipated roles/responsibilities** (these are only examples – suggestions welcome!)

- Gathering parental contact details for your class to share with other parents – this would be on an opt-in basis, and updated at the start of each new academic year.
- Identifying parents with particular skills / interests and encouraging them to share these in class (eg. Cooking, music, arts, paired reading, computers,)
- Liaising with the class teacher to see what areas of curriculum are being covered and whether parental involvement in the classroom could be facilitated.
- Gathering a ‘helpers list’ for PTA – i.e contact details for individuals who may be free to offer help at school events such as disco, sponsored walk, breakfast together, sports day...
- Offering information to any new parent in the class – eg contact sheet, encouraging them to come along to Friday coffee mornings, advising of information available in parent room etc.
- Feeding back information to the PTA with suggestions and ideas (e.g. fundraising/events/community links)
- Information sharing with other class representatives
- Helping to put together a resource/ information pack for parents – eg local clubs/activities, ideas for birthday parties, local events, helpful hints, recipes for healthy lunch snacks)
- updating PTA facebook page with class news/information

NB This is NOT intended as a conflict resolution role. Parent class representatives should refer any complaints to the correct person as outlined in school policy.

Once or twice a term all parent representatives would then be invited to meet with the PTA Parent Co-ordinator to review this role and discuss any suggestions. At this meeting the parent coordinator would also inform the class representatives of any upcoming events.

**Request for Nominees**

We would hope that **at least** 1 parent/guardian from each mainstream class as well as 1 parent from the special education unit would put themselves forward to act as class representative. If any parent would like to put themselves forward for this role, or would like to nominate another parent in their class who they feel would make a good candidate, please fill out the form below and return to the school secretary.

For any further information on any of the above please contact 0868225785

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**Class Representative**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

Class: Year \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Nominate: Self ( )  
Other ( ) (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

**Bag Pack:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> am ( ) Friday 19<sup>th</sup> pm ( )  
(please tick) Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> am ( ) Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> pm ( )

