



Dear fellow parents,

If you'd told me a few years ago that I'd be writing this, I probably would have laughed.

I was one of those parents who avoided anything PTA/Friends-related, like the plague! I'd see requests for volunteers, assume someone else would help and carry on with my day. Like most parents, I was busy, tired, overwhelmed and juggling a hundred different things. I used to think volunteering meant a huge commitment, but what I've learnt is that even 30 minutes can make a real difference. Whether it's helping set up, clear away or simply lending an extra pair of hands. Many hands really do make light work.

My son attended Dulwich Wood and is now in Year 8. My youngest is currently in Year 5, which means my time as a primary school parent is quickly coming to an end. The funny thing about primary school is that while you're living it, it feels endless. Then one day you realise you've attended your last nativity, your last sports day, your last summer fair, your last Christmas event. Looking back, some of our family's happiest school memories are the fairs, fun runs, and the discos, the excitement, laughter and sense of community that make primary school so special.

Since joining the Friends, I've had a real eye-opening experience. In a turn of events that absolutely nobody is more surprised about than me, I somehow even ended up as Co-Chair. I've seen the planning, organising, fundraising and sheer hard work that goes into creating these events. I've also seen how often that responsibility falls to the same small group of people. Without volunteers, many of these events simply wouldn't happen, so I want to say a huge thank you to the parents who have volunteered over the years to make these events possible. You've already given so much to this school community and we're incredibly grateful. If you have one more Summer Fair left in you, we'd love your support.

I've also gained an even greater appreciation for our amazing school staff. They already give so much to our children every day, yet many of them still generously give their time and support to help make these events possible. It really is a team effort between parents and staff.

What I've come to realise is that volunteering isn't really about helping the Friends, It's about protecting the experiences that make primary school special. It's about making sure today's children get the same memories that our older children had.

So if you're thinking, "Fine, I'll help, but I'm definitely not joining a committee or accidentally becoming Co-Chair," don't worry, that's very much not the plan. Right now, we're looking for volunteers to help make this year's Summer Fair a success. The fair is on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 12-3pm** so whether you can spare 30 minutes, an hour, help set up, clear away or lend a hand during the event itself, we'd love to have you involved.

**Simply click the link [Summer fair volunteer community](#) and help us make memories.**

**These events belong to all of our children and they only happen because parents make them happen.**

Thank you for reading.

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Co-Chair, Friends Of Dulwich Wood (still not entirely sure how that happened)

***PS:** We're also building a volunteer bank for future events so if you'd like to be added for occasional opportunities throughout the year, you can join here: [General volunteer bank](#) and [Fruit Friday volunteer bank](#)*