



Riverside Primary School Parent and Teacher Association

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Registered Charity No. 1156112

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Good morning,

The PTA have been made aware of some feedback regarding this year's firework event so we just wanted to try and dispel any quandaries that people might be having ahead of our biggest event of the year.

This event has been a year in the making and has taken up more hours of PTA volunteer's time than any of us care to attempt to calculate but we're doing it because we have a desire to get the community together at what is set to be an incredible event.

We have spent months discussing plans, reaching out to stall holders, planning logistics, hiring entertainers, completing paperwork, creating art work for publicity, contacting sponsors and having countless meetings to make sure that we are doing the best we can, based on feedback from last year. We always ask for feedback on our events as this is what we learn from to make things better for the following year, so we rely on our Riverside families to be open and honest with us so that we in turn, can do the best for our children. This is why it saddens us to have heard such negative feedback from the minority, on the grapevine this past week about last year's event; if we don't know, we can't do anything about it!

So just to clarify, based on the feedback that we did receive last year we have put the following into place for this year's event.

- More lighting – we have purchased more lighting and will attempt to put them in higher locations (although health and safety must be our priority when doing this)
- We have brought in more food vendors to cater for a wider range of needs/tastes
- There will be more stallholders available for you to peruse
- There will be more free entertainment by way of a stilt walker and firebreather funded by the PTA, as well as performances by Dance Avenue and the DJ (but ticket prices have remained at the competitive price they were last year)
- The bonfire lighting will take place at the end of the smaller firework display In order to minimise too many trips on/off the field but ensuring that anyone who wants to watch it can
- Two firework displays are available this year; a smaller, low-noise display at an earlier time for younger children and a larger, louder one set to music at the later time to cater for our older children and families (again, at the cost of the PTA, with no increase in ticket prices)

With all of this in mind, please let us remind you that there is no set entry time; the gates open at 4:30pm but you are free to arrive and leave whenever you wish, in line with your family's needs/wishes. As long as you arrive before 7pm, you can stay for as long or as little time as you desire. There is also no expectation on anyone to spend additional money whilst at the event – we are providing free entertainment for the duration of the evening so feel free to soak up the atmosphere without spending a penny.

As with every event, we heavily rely on volunteers and without them, we are limited to what we can and can't do. With an event like this one, safety is paramount so any volunteers we do have will be needed for marshalling to make sure everything runs smoothly and safely. Therefore, as we don't have enough volunteers again, we are unable to run any cheap PTA activity stalls at this time, however we hope the free entertainment will make up for this.

One final note, we are using the same firework company that we had last year and we believe in them 100%. There was a delay in the firing of the display last year that was unfortunately beyond anyone's control due to external circumstances. Sadly this could have happened to anyone at any event and indeed does, on occasions. The feedback about the fireworks, even though we weren't able to have the full display was that they were amazing, so just imagine how incredible they will be this year! Again, steps have been made to ensure that this doesn't happen this year; the team are coming down the night before and will be on site from 9am making sure everything is just perfect. Pyrol Cartel have a lot to prove to the residents of Hullbridge, they are fully aware of that and I have no doubt they are going to do just that.

So please, please, if you have feedback on our events, we want to hear it; the good, the bad and the ugly but do come on down and support us on November 2nd, give the pyrotechnics a chance, as we are and let's make more memories together.

<https://forms.gle/nWLCcfxPP8kri9>

Kind regards,
Vikki
PTA Chairperson

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Chairperson – Vikki Overend, Treasurer – Michelle Lobb, Secretaries – Stacey Shepherd-Smith & Carly Horsler
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