

# Simms Cross PTA

## Who we are & What we do!

The Simms Cross PTA formed in 2013, we began with a team of ten volunteers coming up with ways and means of what we can do to help the children of our school receive the best in education. After just a few short months we realized through some simple fund raisers we had raised the sufficient funds to become a registered charity.

This meant we now had the opportunity to broaden our horizons and make the impossible possible. Through dedication, determination and pride we began setting our sights on an immerse room, The future of education allowing children to step inside virtual learning. In 2015 after just 18 months the remaining 5

of the PTA welcomed visitors including Local MP Derek Twigg, Mayor and mayoress of Halton and local council members to the unveiling of our state of the art £25,000 Gourlay suite, dedicated the man behind the magic Robert Gourlay.

Facing challenges and achievements along the way we held many successful fundraisers including, summer fairs, bingos, fun days, multi days, discos and lots more. This resulting in a fantastic mile stone of raising around £30,000 from when we formed all dedicated to the learning and education of your children.

Welcome!

06/11/2015



## A note from the head teacher.

The PTA at Simms Cross has now been running for about 4 years. During this time they have raised a considerable amount of money for the school through fund raising events such as the summer fayre, Halloween

disco and the bingo events. The money raised helps to pay for school trips, prizes for celebration assemblies and much bigger items such as the Immersive/wow room. The PTA also helps out with other events too such as the

McMillan coffee morning, children in need and other themed days. Without their support the school would not be able to provide some of these things or would have to use the school budget leaving less money to spend on books and

Currently there are very few PTA members and they have to work really hard to organise events like the recent disco. It would be great if a few more parents, relatives or friends could get involved. This would not have to be on a regular basis and would not mean you had to be a committee member. You could volunteer to gather prizes for events, help set up or even lend a hand on the day.

## Chair Person Emma Brook:

When I joined the PTA in February 2013 it was all a little daunting as I had never offered my free time before, however as the PTA grew I knew I had made the right decision. Rob was our main man in the Chairman position and that's when the fun began, he took the word dedication and give it a whole new meaning, with meetings, fundraisers, coffee mornings, presentations and ideas to organize. We began discussing the children's learning and how it had evolved from when we were in school, that's when the idea of an interactive class room was mentioned, with none of us thinking anymore about it rob came to us a week later telling us that there is actually

such a thing, the Immersive Room. This give us the determination to achieve. Rob approached me privately asking would I like to take over the role of chair person, with pretty great shoes to fill I accepted, our journey began smoothly and each and every one of us were filled with excitement as we reached closer and closer to our target, Until July of 2014 when we lost our Rob, unexpectedly and suddenly a member of our family taken away from us, We never knew how we would carry on or if we could carry on. Every day was a struggle a real test of our capabilities with out him made us more determined to accomplish his goal and that we did, the day came

when we unveiled the Gourlay Suite to the school, to the community and to the memory of Rob, the ups and downs has brought us the PTA, the staff, the children all together as one strong unit led of course by our own Lesley Feakes. With the help and support of Lesley and the rest of Simms Cross we make the impossible possible with nothing stopping us we can succeed and work for ways to contribute and add to the education and learning of our children. If you ever have an idea no matter how big or small then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us here at Simms Cross PTA to discuss ways we can bring your ideas to life.

## Vice Chair Michelle Mulqueen:

I joined the PTA when it started, I shared Rob's ideas about how important it was to get involved anyway the school needed us for all the help and support they had given to our son Dylan who has autism and was given a place in the resource base. Everything was going so well until last year when we lost Rob, it was as if the world was about to end and returning to the PTA seemed at the time impossible for me, not only was it hard to come into the school but I thought I

---

*"yeah its hard work at times but the aching feet and tired eyes are all totally worth it when you see what we can achieve"*

wasn't strong enough to carry on, then it hit me how much hard work Rob had done and after speaking with everyone else we all decided we had

come to far and already done too much to just let it fall apart and I'm glad I did, not only did we hit one of our major goals by completing Rob's room but the guys helped me through some tough times, we are like a family with all the same ideas and needs of the children of the school coming first, yeah its hard work at times but the aching feet and tired eyes are all totally worth it when you see what we can achieve in such a short time that will last for years.

## Treasurer Debbie Speakman:

I helped create Simms Cross PTA as I wanted to be involved in my daughters school life and education. I work full time so find it difficult to be involved with activities during school hours so arranging and joining in with events that can be held outside of school hours suited me.

I wanted to help make a difference in the school by raising funds for the 'extras' that the budget does not cover,

*"I wanted to help make a difference in the school by raising funds for the extras"*



and get to know the parents and teachers of Simms Cross. I enjoy meeting new people, helping to organize events offering help and support when I can and applying for funding. If you ever feel you would like to be apart of something fantastic then by all means come along to our monthly meetings were your input is greatly appreciated.

## Secretary Donna Waterworth:

Having befriended Rob and Michelle through our daughters being in the same class I was amongst the small group when the PTA was formed.

At first we were a little bit skeptical because it was a new experience for us as none of us had ever really heard of anything like this before, however after Rob had done his research he came to us with the purpose of the PTA. Given I knew Rob and Michelle it came to me that the PTA was just the start, next come the charity registration then came the ideas, the ideas that seemed highly unlikely something way out of our league that would never see the light of day, once we were established and knew what

*"At first we were a little bit skeptical because it was a new experience for us as none of us had ever really heard of anything like this"*

road we were heading down the pressure seemed to ease and with the confidence I have in us all I knew that we were about to make a big difference to the lives of the children here at Simms Cross.

It is an understatement to say we have been tried and tested but not taking no for an answer made us more determined to accomplish Rob's goal

I am honored to represent Simms Cross and offer my support where I can never the less it is a privilege to work alongside my friends and my family united as one. So here is to the future.

## Co-ordinator of Events Chris Waterworth

I was the last person to join the PTA in 2013 never having done charity work or anything like that I came in not having a clue what was expected of me. The team welcomed me with open arms so to say and I settled really quickly. Straight away we knew what we wanted to achieve and how we were going to achieve it. Rob was our chair at the time and he was a very organized man with a clear vision of what the PTA wanted to achieve.

*"he was a very organized man with a clear vision of what the PTA wanted to achieve".*



In July 2014 we faced a tragedy that none of us were expecting but none of us could prevent. This shook us and left us feeling lost, do we continue? Do we go our separate ways? But in his honour and memory we believed that continuing our journey and to succeed was in our best interest to remember Rob.

Today we can stand proud and look back on what we have achieved thanks to him and how we have changed the future of learning for Simms Cross Primary.

## Head of Donations Diane Dodd:

I joined the PTA with some friends from the school. I initially started due to the PTA first coming together solely to purchase Sensory equipment for the upper and junior resource bases. With 4 of my children statemented my youngest John was enrolled here with Autism and Global Delay at Simms Cross were he has received the very best in assisted learning keeping in line with the national curriculum but allowing him to work to his comforta-

ble pace. Since we have come together I find us to be like our own little family spending time together in school but also in our personal time celebrating the accomplishments we have made. Because I suffer from depression I find it hard to break free however being around these guys certainly does put that smile on your face and a spring back in your step. Anybody who joins or has joined the PTA has never been disappointed and seeing

the children when you succeed the way we do makes you see why it is all



## Business Name

---

SIMMS CROSS PTA  
Simms Cross Primary School  
Widnes  
Cheshire  
WA8 7QS

*If you could offer your help at any event please complete*

NAME	CONTACT NO	EMAIL	Preferred contact

**NOBODY CAN DO EVERYTHING  
EVERYBODY CAN DO SOMETHING**