

ST JOHN'S, LACEY GREEN PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Fundraising for our children's futures

June 2018 PA Newsletter

Once again it has been an exceptionally busy year for the PA at St John's.

Most recently we've had the Circus come to the school and raise a fantastic amount of money but all through the year there have been events big and small helping to fundraise for the school and all your children.

As always, all these events and fundraising initiatives wouldn't be able to happen without the support of all of you. Whether you organise events, volunteer to help or just buy tickets you are supporting the school. So, **thank you.**

As is evident from the latest Governor letter, the school don't have a huge amount of spare funds after paying for the teachers and so the money the PA raises is so important. Giving up your time for any event or initiative is a great way to support your children's education.

This year we have been focusing on completing the fundraising for the new Music Pavilion and as a result we are able to continue the work on it over the summer. Teachers have also been busy spending money on resources for the classrooms. For more details on where the money goes please keep reading.

After the summer the PA Committee will be losing a few members. If you think you'd like to step into one of the roles then please chat to us on the email address below about what is involved. Each role can be developed to fit the person and it is as much work as you make it. So please consider getting involved. Without a full Committee the PA would need to be collapsed and fun events such as the disco would not be able to run and fundraising would not happen. Please note roles can be shared if necessary.

Thanks also to those who have completed the PA survey. Your responses have been varied and often contradictory(!) but be assured we take on all your thoughts and endeavour to serve you all the best we can. Remember though, the best way to have a PA whose output aligns with your desires is to come to meetings and share your ideas and suggestions!!

The PA Committee
stjohnsparentsassociation@gmail.com

Next PA Meeting Thursday 5th July at 7.30pm

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please do send apologies to let us know you care!

Fundraising & Events

Mad Hatter's Ball

Last summer's big fundraiser was a fabulous success, raising £16,395 to go towards the school kitchen and cookery teacher project. Thanks to Liz Patient and her team for a truly spectacular and magical evening. The money raised has been spent throughout the year getting the kitchen ready for lessons to begin shortly & to fund a teacher for the lessons.



Camp night & Fun day 2017! Although it seems a long time ago (the next camp night will be happening soon on 7th July) the Fun day and camp night last year raised £1,400 towards the music pavilion.

The kids love being able to run around the school field and play with their friends late at night! I highly recommend it to everyone for this year.

The **School Discos** in November & March had all the usual fabulous dance moves by all year groups. In March we added face painting to the evening which seemed to go down well with all ages of children. Thank you to all the volunteers who braved the noise to provide the children with an exhausting evening.

Theatre Tickets

Aladdin, Mamma Mia, Gangster Granny, Awful Auntie & The Lion Kings to name a few. More tickets are available / coming soon for Horrible Histories, 2018 Panto and Tom Gates. Thank you to Vicki Scoble for organising tickets and Sara O'Connor for also arranging coaches to London for the Lion King.

The **Circus** in May raised a fantastic £4000 for the school. The team – headed up by Susi Catchpole did a spectacular job in bringing it all together and providing a fabulous day for all.



Bag2School

An excellent way to get rid of old clothes etc and fundraise at the same time. Each collection brings in over £100 for the school. There will be another collection day on 4th July. Thanks to Julia Spittles for organising this. We are hoping to get a permanent collection point set up at school soon so keep your eyes peeled!

2nd Hand Uniform

Once again excellent value 2nd hand uniform has been sold throughout the year. The next sale will happen in late June

Remember all events can be booked online at
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/st-johns>

The all ages **Bingo** night in November was a fun evening for all ages with picture cards for the children, containing their own drawings, allowing them to play independently.

The **quiz night** tested everyone's brains a little bit – particularly the round with questions from the curriculum!

Book-o-Club is still going strong with the monthly raffle awarding lucky children £20 & £10 book tokens and bookmarks. Remember that money raised by the club is spent on new books for the school. The club will reopen again in September so don't forget to renew.

Cookie & Ice Cream sales have been continuing this year and remain a popular end to the week treat for the children and parents alike.

Christmas 2017

The Christmas Fair was again a thoroughly enjoyable and successful event. Raising over £4400 for the Music Pavilion. Stalls included the beanie boo tree, crafts, bottle tombola, Year 6 games and for the first time some external stallholders joined us next to the cafe. Special thanks to Lisa Cook, Lynette Morrissey, Claire Bignall, The Grotto angels, and the Secret Room organisers and all the volunteers who gave their time leading up to & on the day.



Sarah and Tracey our fabulous Grotto Elves once again pulled out all the stops and created a magical space in which the children could meet Santa.



The Christmas cards & personalised gifts were once again well received and due to the help of some parent volunteers to support the children when doing their designs, more cards were ordered than previous years raising over £550.



Wreath Making was new event in the Christmas calendar – run by Sarah & Tracey. Some beautiful wreaths were made by all during a very enjoyable evening.



Sara O'Connor once again found herself a team of volunteers to film all the Christmas performances which she then pulled together into beautifully presented Christmas DVDs for everyone to keep.

Outdoor Space

At St John's the children are extremely lucky to have plenty of outdoor space. Unfortunately as we all find with our own gardens, these areas can get overgrown & dirty and need regular attention to get them looking their best.

We try to run a few TLC weekends each year where parents and children are invited to come into school and carry out small jobs to improve the space for the children. We could pay someone to do this (and we may have to in the future) but we feel that, especially for the children it's a lovely way for them to feel pride in the school and it's gardens.

The last TLC day was unfortunately a busy weekend for many and so only a few volunteers came – they did however do an amazing job where they could.



Outdoor Club

The outdoor club started the year with a free kite making event. It was well attended and the kids roared around the playing field with their masterpieces, getting some lift despite no wind. We have also had another outdoor science workshop, making acid base indicators from red cabbage, experimenting with slime and more! Parents were great at getting involved and the kids enjoyed the discovery and getting messy. We also had a fantastic time with Penny Cullington hunting for Fungi in Brandenham woods. The kids found lots of different varieties and took some home to make amazing spore prints.

Before the evenings lengthened we hosted a star gazing evening. Whilst sipping hot chocolate, Chris Teal, from High Wycombe Astronomical Society, led us through an amazing story of the night sky above us. Our latest event was owl pellet dissection. The kid's concentration, whilst they carefully picked out all the tiny bones, was brilliant. Some of them even managed to reconstruct some great skeletons of small rodents. Interest was certainly sparked in kids and parents alike. Thank you to all who have supported the Outdoor Club this year. Remember it's open to all and if you'd like to join in or run an event please get in touch. Our next event is Glow Worms - a late night adventure of the wonders of nature in the woods. Also, don't forget to look out for us at Camp Night and join in the "Lacey Green Rocks" event.



Thanks to Lizzie Davis & Sarah Ebdon & all the Outdoor Club volunteers.

How the PA's funds are spent by the school

We are aware that often parents aren't sure where the money raised is spent within the school. Over the last year obviously a huge focus has been on fundraising for the Music Pavilion but money has also been spent throughout the school in numerous ways.

Each term the school have a sum of money available to them to spend how they wish without requiring approval from the PA. These purchases therefore don't get aired at meetings and so go unminuted. We have listed many of these spends below. Please be aware with the changeover to an academy the school bursar has been extremely busy and so many of the usual photos are unavailable.

For larger purchases (e.g astroturf for the entrance way, curtains, smart whiteboards) the school or parents will come to the meetings with requests for spends and as we have a fairly steady fundraising income from all our events and initiatives these spends are approved at meetings throughout the year and again don't always get advertised to the wider school community.

Very large spends – e.g The Music Pavilion, The Cookery class project. These are the ones that the parents see more advertising about as they generally require more support from everyone. As you can see they are certainly not the only things we are spending money on for the school!

Here is where the money has been going throughout this year.

Easter treats for every child in the school.

Adventure Reading Challenge for KS1

Numerous books for both KS1 & KS2 – primarily funded by the money raised by Booko

Adopt a school cookery lessons for Year 5

A visit from Image theatre who will run a workshop for all the children – can get logo

Binoculars

Cameras

French Resources

Concert by the New Mozart Orchestra

Electric Pencil Sharpeners

Billy Big Wheels Remote Control Car



Funding has also been allocated for:

New curtains for the main hall and some classrooms

New Smart Whiteboards for 2 classrooms

A photobooth for the Yr6 Leavers Party

Activities for the Year 3 induction day

Artificial grass for the entrance area of the school

Refurbishment of the Learning Mentor Room

Ice Creams for the children on their sports days



Cookery & Kitchen Project

The money raised from the Mad Hatter's Ball last year was earmarked for a cookery project for the school. Various parents have been working with the school and the PA in order to get the kitchen up to the required standard to run lessons and to get a teacher employed to run these lessons. This has included:

a new kitchen floor

new cookers & table top hobs

Equipment for the children to use in lessons

Membership to a Soil Association initiative in conjunction with Jamie Oliver.



In addition, some of the Ball Money will be going towards new outdoor furniture for the children.

Music Pavilion

Fundraising to complete the new music pavilion has been top of the agenda for the last 9 months. The Crowdfunder campaign at the end of 2017 was very successful and since then with more individual donations and money raised at various events we are now able to complete most of the remaining work over the next few months. Builders are booked in to carry out the main construction work (enclosing the space) over summer holidays in mid-August. This will just leave the interior work and second fix electrical, the total cost of which is around £8000 and should be covered by grants that have been applied for. The aim is to have the building completely finished and ready to use by this Christmas!



There is no understating the time and energy that has been put into this project by Clem Blakemore the architect. She has researched and applied for grants and initiatives to support the project and has approached many businesses to obtain funds and materials to support the project. Origin Design have donated a set of Bi-Folding Doors from Origin Global (worth approx. £6200) and building control services have been obtained from Assure (worth approx. £750).

We are all very excited to see the project completed and the school will benefit hugely from this extra space available to them so huge thank you to Clem.

Parentkind

The PTA are now members of the Parentkind website which is an excellent resource for parents. If you would like access to all the information on the site then register with our PA code 79819.

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk>

How you can help

Volunteer

It has been mentioned that often parents would like to help but don't where to offer their services so here is a little bit of information on ways you can help us.

Over the last year, quite a few events have been run and managed by the committee. If individual events such as discos, quiz nights, cookie & ice cream sales could be coordinated by parents this would take a huge burden off the committee. We are always there to help and advise and try to be at every event to support but we are human with jobs and children to juggle and so can't do everything!

Here are a few examples of where more people would really help us.

Coming up with ideas for events! We are always in need of new ideas.

Disco – coordinator(s), volunteers for the evening, purchaser for sweets, glow sticks, someone to sort the lists out!

Cookie Sales – someone to coordinate volunteers to ensure cookies are bought each Friday and sufficient people are available to sell them.

Wrapping gifts for the secret room.

Running a stall at the Christmas fair.

Helping at school induction / visitors days to serve tea & cake to new parents and children.

Helping at the school sports days.

Join the Grants Team and investigate and apply for grants for the school.

Volunteering and organising events also really helps fill a CV after a career break

Raise money from the comfort of your home

If you see other businesses offering referral incentives that you think might benefit the PA then please do let us know.



Ask a friend or grandparent to sign up for Easyfundraising – ebooks, family vacations, office purchases, even your insurance! – can help improve our school with a few pennies: [Click here!](#)

So far since 2015 the school has received £3731.63 since we signed up to Easyfundraising.



Facebook – the School Parent's Association page will soon have a donate button – please share this far and wide. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/StJohnsPA>



Amazon – By choosing St John's Parents Association as your linked charity on Amazon Smile you can raise money for the school when you shop. smile.amazon.co.uk



Donate some of your ebay selling profits to the PA. When you list an item and select to donate a % to charity you can search for and choose the school.



Sign up for a Riverford Organic Veg Box - The school will receive £15 after 3 deliveries and again after 52. Visit <https://www.riverford.co.uk> and use code SCH1242



If you are purchasing from the Book People – check if the PA have an active donation code.



Buy your naming stamps from StampTastic (& hopefully reduce the amount of clothes lost at school!!) Use this link https://stampTastic.co.uk/pages/school-welcome#a_aid-5abbe8668b1f



Put your old ink cartridges & mobile phones in the box in reception. We receive money for each eligible item. <http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Home>



Donate your old clothes to Bag2School (next one 4th July) (hopefully there will be a permanent recycling box in reception in the future too)

Buy 2nd hand school uniform through the PA.

Get your company to "match fundraise", doubling your efforts. [Get lots of information by clicking here.](#)