

ST JOHN'S, LACEY GREEN PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Fundraising for our children's futures

January 2019 PA Newsletter

Welcome to the first PA Newsletter for 2018-2019.

We have a couple of new committee members this year and so would like to welcome Caroline Johnstone as Vice Chair and Mark Blackburn as Treasurer. Victoria Geenes is now Chair and Jo Sharp is continuing her role as Secretary. Many thanks to the outgoing committee for all the fabulous work they've done over the last few years.

It has been a busy Autumn Term for the school and the PA and as always we'd like to extend our thanks to everyone who has helped out at all the events since September, none of this would be possible without you. Apologies if we don't thank you specifically but always know you are appreciated!

We'd also like to thank you all for embracing the online booking system so willingly over the last few years. The reduction in work at our end cannot be underestimated. We have now purchased a credit card machine for events too to bring us further into the 21st Century!

If you ever have any ideas for fundraising events or ways you'd like to see PA money spent in the school then please do get in touch with us. Even if you cannot make a meeting your proposals can still be sent for discussion.

The PA Committee

stjohnsparentsassociation@gmail.com

Fundraising and Events

Camp Night 2018

Once again we were so lucky with the weather. The children (and adults) had a very enjoyable evening. There was rock painting, face painting, fish & chips, BBQs, fire pits, ball games, glow sticks and a little bit of drink. An impressive breakfast offering also revived us the following day. Thanks to all involved.



School Disco

As always the children strutted their stuff and demonstrated some impressive moves at the school discos in November. A particular highlight was the year 5s & 6s doing one big floss!

An army of volunteers allowed this event to happen so we're really grateful to you all.

The next disco will be on 15th March and tickets will be available soon.

2nd Hand Clothing

With the delay of the Bag2School collection the PA decided to run a couple of £1 clothing sales to boost the money raised.

The sales raised around £400 and Bag2School raised a fantastic £296 too, so excellent work. Thanks to Julia Spittles for organising Bag2School again. And thanks for all the collections arranged in the past.

Bag2School is being coordinated by Becky Howson in the future with the next collection on 11th March.

Theatre Tickets

All sorts of reduced price theatre tickets have been secured again and many children and parents have been able to see shows at reduced rates.

The Lion King, School of Rock, Aylesbury Panto and Horrible Histories.

There will be hopefully more tickets coming up before the end of the school year too including Tom Gates at the Wycombe Swan on 7th June.

If anyone would like to take on the organising of the tickets please get in touch as Vicki is stepping down from the role.

Tesco Bags of Life

Thank you to everyone who put their blue tokens into our box in Tesco in Princes Risborough. Unfortunately there was some stiff competition and so we came third but we still received £1000 for the Pavilion so still great news for the school.

Cookie Sales

After a slow start in September the Cookie Sales were taken on by Lisa Cook who has done a fabulous job of diversifying.

We now not only have cookies and donuts but popcorn, flapjacks & more.

If you are ever able to help Lisa out on a Friday between 3-3.40 then please let us know.

2nd Hand Uniform

Excellent 2nd Hand Uniform sales again. If you are ever in need of items for your children it's definitely worth contacting the PA Uniform organisers first as they have a huge amount of stock and the prices are very reasonable.

BookoClub

Great sales again since September and a huge amount of money raised a lot of books have already been bought this year with this money – see photos later in the newsletter.

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

Christmas 2018

Once again the **Christmas Fair** organisers pulled out all the stops and arranged a spectacular afternoon for everyone.

One highlight was definitely the Candyfloss ladies setting off the fire alarm (you know who you are!), I think Mrs Rodbourne saw the funny side though and everyone evacuated very quickly and efficiently so a good test for all!

Some amazing Year 6 games showed the ingenuity of our children and the mini helpers we had all around the fair, along with our wonderful adult volunteers really showed off our community spirit.

The final total is still to be calculated but it looks like a healthy amount again!



Santa's Grotto was, as always a sight to behold and was a truly magical space for all the children (and adults who had a peek) Sarah & Tracey put in so much work again and we are lucky to have them amongst our parents.

The **Christmas Cards** & personalised gifts were once again well received and Cathy Henshaw rounded up a group of volunteers who helped the children produce beautiful pictures. We hope your friends and families enjoyed receiving their cards and gifts

Secret Room

Thanks to Claire Bignell who organised the secret room and to all the lovely helpers who wrapped gifts and helped the children with their choices.

We hope you enjoyed receiving your gifts on Christmas day. We believe the new secret room elves have been already been scouring the post Christmas sales for some wonderful gifts for next year!

Sarah and Tracey again ran a wreath making workshop for parents and helped them all produce some beautiful wreaths which adorned doors all around the area!

Even the less crafty & arty of us produced great wreaths so the teaching must be commended!



Sara O'Connor watched and filmed every Christmas play performance with her team of volunteers and then has devoted even more of her time editing and producing all the DVDs. She even managed to get the KS1 DVDs sent out in time for Christmas and raised a fantastic amount of money.



Outdoor Space

Thank you to all the volunteers who came along to the **TLC day** in November. A huge amount of work was completed and some neglected areas got a new lease of life. Special mention to Mrs (& Mr) Freeman who were there all day and Mrs Rodbourne who tackled some of the fierce thorny bushes!

Also thanks to the following who helped on the day or have helped generally with the outside areas: Alison Shreeve, Lisa & John Burnett, Michael Bryant from Country Supplies, John Tyler & John Fairless.

We would love to revamp Hogan's Hideaway further and are currently looking into getting someone in with machines to do some serious digging! If anyone has any contacts who could help please get in touch as this space would provide a fabulous learning area for the children.

We are also planning some work soon on the KS1 playground to add to the space they have available. On Giving Tuesday we raised over £400 in donations from Parents which will help immensely. Hopefully this will all be ready in time for the warmer weather.



Willow Arch redone by the Horticultural Society



Outdoor Club

A couple of outdoor club events have taken place since September.

Firstly a photography event where the children learnt a whole host of photography skills – you can see some of their amazing photos below.

Also, the club arranged a walk in Hughenden with a few brave souls braving the rain to attend! (See photos!)

A few more events will be coming up in the new year so keep an eye on the events website for details.

Thanks again to our outdoor club volunteers who keep coming up with more & more great ideas for events.

If you have an idea that will help get the kids outside then please share it



Learning Mentor Room

After a water leak during Xmas 2017 the learning mentor room was very badly damaged. Thanks for the work of 'Choppy' a year 4 & 1 parent the room was plastered and painted and has been given a new lease of life. Using PA funds we also have purchased furniture and carpets (generously provided at a reduced price from Wycombe Carpet Centre) and the photos below show the room as it is now – a perfect place for children.

Purchases funded by the PA

Here is where else money has been going since the last newsletter in June

New carpet for the Year 1 Classroom

New carpet for Reception

New curtains for the main hall – to allow the children to use the hall without the sun streaming into their eyes!

New reusable cups for the PA to use at events throughout the year.

Funding for the fish tanks

Books for the libraries

Outdoor furniture

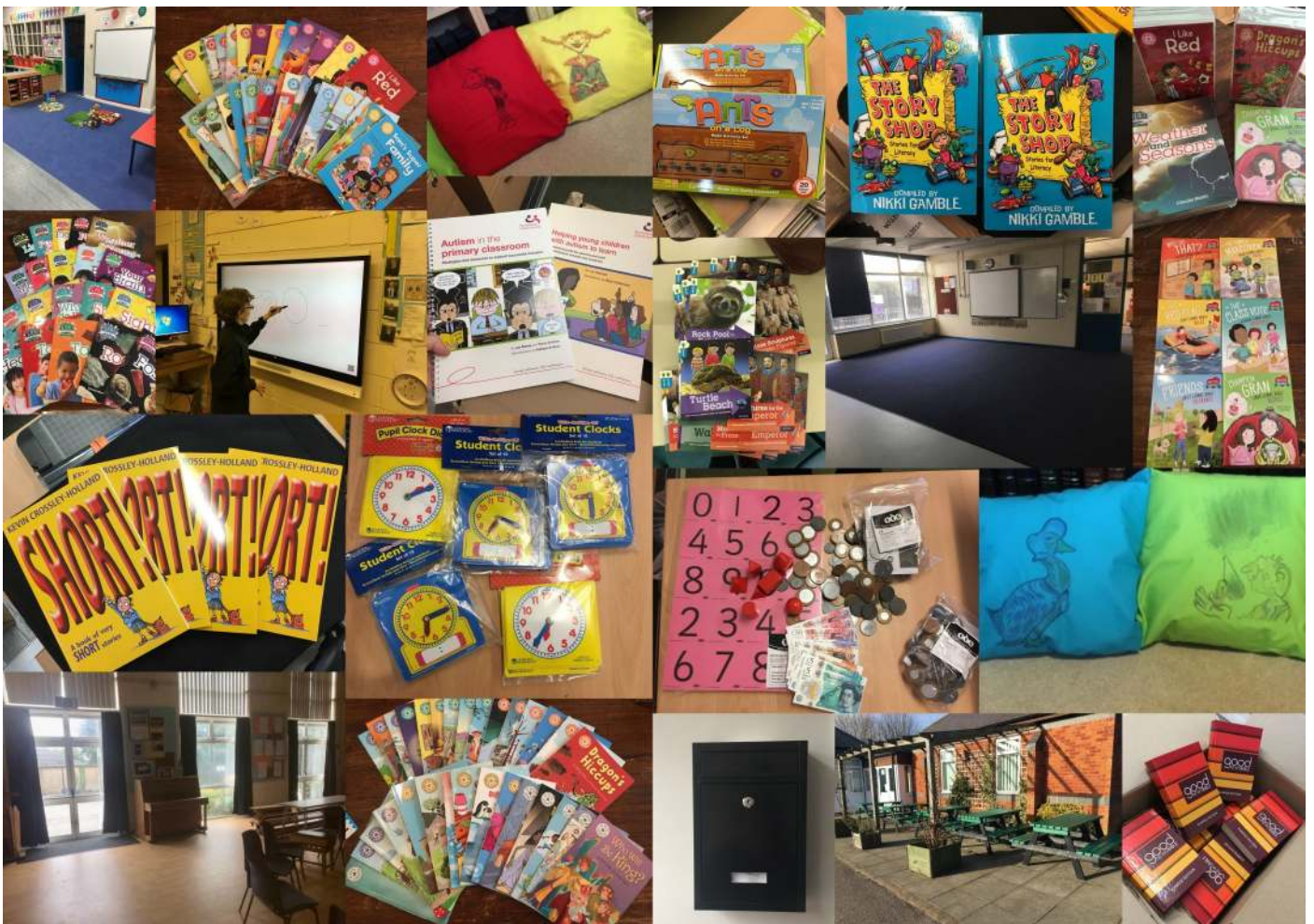
20 Sunrise Bibles

Library Supplies

Maths Resources

A new Smart Board for Mrs Moulder's classroom

New cushions and book covers for the KS2 library



Music Pavilion

Update from Clem Blakemore

Progress since September:

The bi-fold doors were installed by Origin in early October and the main construction work was completed over half term. Local furniture fabricators Design & Making came in next to install the built-in storage bench and pegs. Thanks to an amazing £4800 raised via the Co-op and Tesco, we finally reached the funding target for the building work in November and could give the go-ahead for the second-fix electrical. The burglar and fire alarms were therefore installed before Christmas, and whilst the electrician sadly doesn't have time to install the heaters and lights before Christmas, this will be carried out at the start of next term!

AV Equipment & Landscaping:

The only thing left to buy before Mrs. Insley can move in and start using the space is a screen, so she can hook up a laptop and show lyrics and music during her lessons. The other final thing that we'd really like to do as a part of the project is make some improvements to the KS1 playground, which is adjacent to the building. Quite a lot of soil was added to the grassy 'Dragon mound' next to the playground during the Phase 1 construction work; it's now a little too steep to play on and also has some flint near the surface of the soil which poses a danger to the children. We'd therefore like to hire a groundwork company to remove the mound altogether, creating a flat grassy area as an extension to the playground. We already have some funds from Giving Tuesdays earmarked for this, and are obtaining quotes at the moment. Hopefully we'll be able to carry this out in the coming months so that we can finally have an official opening ceremony in the summer term, and bury the Time Capsule that many of you contributed to.



View of the rear wall from the inside, showing the translucent polycarbonate cladding



Front of the Music Room, showing the new timber cladding & bi-fold doors



Coloured pull handles on the large storage drawers which will go under the benches



The built-in storage bench during installation

How you can help

Volunteer

We cannot stress enough that without volunteers we would not be able to organise and run most of the events at the school. We are endlessly grateful to all of you who donate your time and energy to help us out so thank you!

For most events we put out pleas for volunteers in advance and get a good uptake which is fantastic. However outside of this there is so much work going on behind the scenes and we would be glad of help to spread the load a little!!

If you'd like to help, but just don't know how, please take a look at the list below of things that are currently done by the committee and a few dedicated volunteers and see if anything might suit your qualities and time...

- ◆ Thinking of ideas and finding people to run new and different events at the school
- ◆ Running an event we've thought of but can't run by ourselves! (Film night, Bedtime stories, Escape Rooms)
- ◆ Helping to organise regular events (eg. Disco)
- ◆ Coordinating group Theatre Tickets
- ◆ Organising ongoing fundraising such as recycling initiatives
- ◆ Helping the committee get quotes for work that needs doing
- ◆ Looking for grants for projects & applying for these grants
- ◆ Run an outdoor club event
- ◆ Organise a group of parents for a craft evening to make items we can sell
- ◆ Contacting local businesses for support for events / sponsorship

The above list is not exhaustive and without people to help us with these jobs many of them won't get done. This would mean we could miss out on ways to fundraise for our school.

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

Raise money from 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 holidays, office purchases, even your insurance! – can help improve our school with a few pennies. Since we signed up in 2015 the school has received **£4,014.91** from Easy-fundraising.

Sign up via www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/2FHREQ/8APLZ6



Facebook – the School Parent's Association page has 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 – email the PA for the current referral code.



Buy your clothes-labelling stamps from Stamptastic (and 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 in the box in reception. We earn for each eligible item. <http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Home>



Book a holiday to Butlins using the link www.butlins.com/pta and referral code SJPA1

Get your company to "match fundraise", doubling your efforts. All information is here www.pta.co.uk/funding/faqs-match-funding.aspx