SPELDHURST CEP SCHOOL PTA

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Dear Speldhurst School families,

Well, here we are again - the end of another term and another fantastic year of fundraising & events! It's been a whirlwind 12 months in the PTA, with so much to reflect upon and shout about, but there are two achievements which really stand out in my mind...

Firstly, there's the transformation of the old school hall into our stunning new Arts Space. This project kept us busy over the Easter period but what an incredible difference it has already made to our children. It's so wonderful to see the space being used for music lessons, choir, after school club, chess club and more. Having an additional large room like this in a small school like ours opens up so many new opportunities and I am so pleased we were able to go ahead with this long-discussed project this year.

Secondly (and I am not ashamed to admit this one is a bit more personal), it was winning the 'Changing the Life of the School' award at the National PTA Awards 2024. Of all the awards to win, this one feels like the most important as the one thing we strive to do as a PTA is make a difference...a difference to our children's school life, to the staff at our lovely school, and to the families who make up our school community. To be recognised as having achieved this by the judges means the world to us all.

And we couldn't do it without you all! We know how hard it can be to keep up with all the messages, requests for donations, cries for help and more at times. As parents, we feel it too. But we are so grateful to everyone who continues to find the time to respond and help and support our efforts, knowing the difference they continue to make to each and every one of our children.

In January, we will be holding our next AGM - this is where we elect new committee roles and members for the coming year. We really are in need of new faces to join our wonderful team so please consider coming along to the meeting to find out more if you can (we promise attendance does not mean you are obliged to sign up!!).

Until then, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy start to 2025!

With thanks,

Becky

PTA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

- ★Now until 31st January - LEGO COMPETITION
- ★Friday 17th January - PTA COFFEE MORNING in the G&D (9am) and EMPIRE CAKE SALE after school
- ★Wednesday 22nd January (7.30pm) - PTA AGM
- ★Friday 7th February - BRAMLEY CAKE SALE
- ★Friday 14th February - KS1 & KS2 VALENTINES PARTIES after school
- ★Week beginning 24th February - PTA ONLINE AUCTION
- ★Thursday 6th March - WORLD BOOK DAY
- ★Friday 14th March - PIPPIN CAKE SALE
- ★Friday 25th April - MINI MARATHON (MORNING) & JAZZ CAKE SALE after school
- ★Friday 9th May - GALAXY GALA CAKE SALE
- ★Saturday 10th May - FAMILY FUN DAY
- ★Friday 23rd May - RUSSET CAKE SALE
- ★Thursday 19th June - SPORTS DAY CAFE (reserve date 26th)

MORE DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

How we have helped the school in 2024...

Since the start of the school year in September, we have raised over...

£9,000

This brings the total amount raised in 2024 to approximately... drumroll please...

£24,000!

WoW!

Here's how the money raised has been spent...

£9407
Arts Room Renovation

£4000
Counselling & Wellbeing

£3000
towards 2024 School Trips

£191
Year 3 Pencil Cases

£165
Pippin Book Bags

£725
Year 6 Leavers Books, Dictionaries & End of Exam treats!

£650
Christmas Pantomime Performance

£150
Sustainability Workshops for KS2

At the last PTA meeting, we agreed to help the school in the following ways in 2025...

£3000
towards 2025 School Trips

£500 per month
on Counselling & Wellbeing

£5000
towards the OPAL Playground Project

£1000
towards upgrading the school running track

£420
towards fixing the Trim Trail

We also agreed to work towards raising £10k-£11k to replace the schools iPads in the Summer Term





Amount raised:
£647

THE BIG PTA QUIZ NIGHT

Well, at last they regained their quizzical crown! 👑
We were all delighted to see the teachers return triumphantly to the top of the table at this year's Annual PTA Quiz Night after nearly a decade of coming second. Whether or not it was down to their hard graft swotting up ahead of the event or simply the absence of long-term winners, The Wild Ones, remains to be decided...but either way we were all thrilled for them...almost as thrilled as they were for themselves (see photos!).

Huge thanks to all of the teams for joining us for what is always a brilliant evening and a great fundraiser for our school.

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT



Amount raised:
£7678

What a fantastic, record-breaking Bonfire Night we had this year!
The rain stayed away and you all turned up in your hundreds to both volunteer and enjoy the evening with your families...and thanks to you we raised the most amount of money ever from this event!
From the 9am set-up team, to the after party clear-down crew and everyone in between, including car park marshalls, sausage turners, hot choc makers, pint pourers, glow gift sellers and more...we could not do this without you all. Extra special thanks go to all of the Bonfire Committee for their months of hard work to pull off this spectacular event.
THANK YOU!







FESTIVE FUN!



We think our school is magical all year round but even more so at Christmas time! ✨



The PTA Christmas elves and Mrs Christmas (that's Claire Fox to me and you) always excel themselves at making sure festive fun is had by all the children and this year has been no exception.



The money we raise through our Christmas initiatives is almost entirely spent on funding Christmas activities for our children, including the wonderful pantomime by The Cat's Grin Theatre company, providing Christmas crackers for their lunch, gifts from Father Christmas on Grotto Day and a special snack and drink to have with a festive film on the last week of term. So, huge thanks to every family that has supported us by buying grotto tickets, Christmas cards, Christmas jumpers, making wreaths and more. Extra special thanks need to go to the wonderful families who stepped in and provided extra gifts for the grotto when we were short - your generosity is so greatly appreciated.









OUR SCHOOL LOTTERY:

Our School Lottery continues to be a great source of regular 'income' for the PTA, raising over £600 since the start of the year.
There is a winner from the school every week so if you haven't purchased tickets yet, now's the time...remember, you need to be in it to win it!
Just head to
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/speldhurst-church-of-england to join.

OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY:



Our wonderful team of parent volunteers have continued to keep our library sessions at the school going this term, with a different class visiting each Monday afternoon. We are always in need of more helpers though, whether it be with the Monday library sessions or to help organise the books at different times. Please speak to one of the PTA Team or drop us an email if you are able to help in any way. Extra special thanks to Emma Morris for continuing to co-ordinate these library sessions for our children. The Orchard Library is such a calm and beautiful space for them to enjoy, and we are so lucky to have it.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD MOVEMENT



As we are sure you are aware, there is a growing movement amongst parents, both locally and nationwide, to support the campaigns from Delay Smartphones, Reclaim Childhood and Smartphone Free Childhood, who encourage parents to work together to understand and regulate the use of smartphones amongst pre-teens and young teens. There is a WhatsApp group set up for Speldhurst School parents who are keen to stay in the loop on this subject, so please do get in touch via your class rep if you would like to join this. To find out more information, you can also head to Evidence | One Collective Power. - https://onecollectivepower.co.uk/

OUR JANUARY LEGO COMPETITION:

Our PTA Lego Competition is back for 2025!
If you're looking for a way to keep your children entertained over the Christmas break, here's the answer. Entries should be emailed into the PTA by the end of January - the more original and creative the build, the better, although anything goes!
Mr Howe will be enlisting the help of Mrs MacNaughton to judge the winners after all entries are received.
Happy building!





OUR CLASS REPS:

Our Class Representatives do an amazing job all year round but especially at this time of year when staying on top of all of the reminders is a challenge for even the most organised mind!
Thank you to you all for doing such a brilliant job.

Pippin Class - Chantal McEwan & Kelly Christmas
Jazz Class - Georgie Jefferies & Katherine van Gijn
Galaxy Gala Class - Amy Fryday & Anna Jenkinson
Bramley Class - Alex Brooks, Beth Lucas & Ed Lucas
Empire Class - Lucy Greenidge & Zoe Smith
Crispin Class - Ali Doherty & Lizzie Shorter
Russet Class - Erika Banfield & Kate Rider

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PTA

There are so many way you can help the PTA - we promise it does not need to be a big commitment! The way our PTA is structured you can choose to just get involved with one event once a year, or you may want to be part of the wider decision-making process and join our main committee. We meet every half term to discuss upcoming plans. spending and ideas (note, you do not need to attend every meeting!).
Our next meeting will actually be our Annual General Meeting and this will be place on:
WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2025 at 7.30pm the G&D pub
We do hope you can join us!

PTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chair – Becky Willis
Vice Chair – Chloe Sammons
Treasurer – Steph Elliston
Secretary – Lucy Greenidge

Committee Members:
Deviani Parekh-Jones
Emma Morris
Heather McDonnell
Holly Bettice
Kelly Christmas
Olivia Mills
Sean Willis
Stephanie Potter

EMAIL US on speldhurstpta@gmail.com

DO YOU FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK? If not, head to 'Speldhurst Primary School PTA' for regular updates from us!



Parentkind National PTA AWARDS 2024 WINNER

Merry Christmas