Summer 2024

Speldhurst CEP School

PTA NEWSLETTER

Dear Speldhurst Parents

Chair's Summary

Dear Speldhurst School Families,

Wow, where does a year go? It feels like only yesterday that we were handing out the 'Kitchen Disco' Danceathon t-shirts and rounding up volunteers for Fireworks night, and yet somehow it's now Summer (allegedly...someone needs to have a word with the weather!), and six weeks of holidays are upon us.

Summer term is always a hectic time but a great deal of fun too! Since Easter, we have packed in a number of PTA events, including the Mini Marathon, Family Fun Day, Sports Day Cafe, Coco Bongo and KS1/2 Discos. Plus we have to give a very special shout out to our Pippin dads, who had us all following their every step at the end of June as they made their way across the South Downs.

It's been yet another big school year all round for the PTA. Looking back to this time last year, the SEN hub build was just reaching completion, the work on the new school kitchen was just about to start, and what is now a beautiful multi-purpose Arts Space was still a cluttered room, barely fit for use. Twelve months on, we can't imagine school life without all three of these fantastic spaces, and we are so incredibly proud that the money we have raised as a PTA has made these major projects possible. On top of this, we have been able to continue to provide funding for the school's counselling and wellbeing programme so that there is help and support for our children when it's needed. We have also helped to keep the costs of school trips down by continuing to contribute £14 per child per year.

In 2023, we donated a whopping **£42,000** to the school - quite incredible for a small village school like ours. So far in 2024, we are not far behind with **£16,000** donated since January.

Being able to help the school with these amazing amounts of money is not only down to the hard work of our incredible committee members, but also down to the wonderful community of parents and families we have at Speldhurst School. We know that, at times, it can feel like the PTA is asking for a lot from you all, but we really do hope you can see the difference your time and generosity continues to make to the school and our children. THANK YOU!

We'll be back hitting the ground running in September with preparations for our Quiz Night and Fireworks events, but for now, we wish you all a wonderful Summer break - bring on the sunshine!!!

Becky

Exciting PTA Events & Dates for the Diary 2024

Tea & Tissues for New Pippin Parents
Thursday 5th September

PTA Meeting @ The George & Dragon
Thursday 26th September @ 7.30pm

Bag2School Collection
Wednesday 2nd October

Quiz Night
Friday 11th October

Fireworks Own Clothes Day
(bring sweets for the tombola)
Friday 25th October

Year 1 Jazz Class "Build a Guy" event
Friday 8th November (1.30-3.15pm)

Fireworks Night
Saturday 9th November

Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 12th November

Art Exhibition & Christmas dates to be announced soon!

Class Reps

We need to say a very big thank you to all our outgoing class reps who have done an absolutely amazing job of keeping on top of things for their classes in what has been a very busy year indeed - we are so grateful for all your help and support! We are delighted to say that the new class reps for the 2024/5 school year are now in place - they are:

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

Summer 2024

PTA Donations to School 2024

WOW!

WOW!

With costs continuing to be so high, and funding and budgets so tight, the money we continue to raise as a PTA really does make the most incredible difference to our school. There are so many projects and initiatives which simply could not go ahead without it.

Since Easter, the PTA has donated just under

£16,000

Here's a breakdown of where the money raised by the PTA has gone this term:

£2000 Counselling & Wellbeing Programme (£500 per month since April)

£9,407 Art Space

£3,000 School Trips



From this



To this

£165 Pippin Book Bags

£191 Year 3 Pencil Cases

£136 Year 6 end of SATs treats

£875 Year 6 Leavers Books

Looking ahead to the new school year, we have agreed with the school that we will continue to contribute every month to the school's **counselling and wellbeing programme** - many thanks to the four wonderful Pippin Dads who raised an incredible amount of money on their walk to ensure this is possible.

We will also contribute **£3000 again to school trips** to help keep costs down for parents.

We are then very excited to be working with the school to introduce the **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) scheme** into school break times. OPAL will help to improve the quality of play and the wellbeing of our children. We will be looking at how this scheme is implemented and what resources will be needed - the PTA has agreed to cover the costs of new purchases but we are also hoping to receive donations of certain items from school families...more details to follow soon!

Summer 2024

PTA FUNDRAISING 2024

Thank You!

WOW!



Mini Marathon

£3890 + Gift Aid

was raised





Always a firm favourite in the school calendar, the Mini Marathon went off without a hitch this year - thanks to all the hard work of the committee members, the morning ran as well as the children! It's so fantastic to see the enthusiasm of even the more reluctant runners on the morning of the event as they prepare to set off, and the joy on their faces as they receive their medals at the end of the run. Huge thanks need to go to all the parents who stepped in to act as marshals and parent runners…with special mention going as always to our bunny, chick and carrot! An incredible amount of money was raised through the event - thank you so much to all the families, friends, neighbours and more who sponsored the children to help us reach this fantastic figure.





Family Fun Day

£1765 was raised





We've no idea how we managed it but for the third year running, we managed to schedule the Family Fun Day for the first sunny day of the year (and one of the only ones so far!!). It was so wonderful to have so many families joining us for an afternoon of fun in our lovely school grounds - there were an incredible 116 school families attending this year, which is a record for us. The BBQ, bar, inflatables (bring on the Gladiators!), and Arts area were as popular as ever, and Mr Howe had what seemed like a never-decreasing queue for Beat the Goalie! Special thanks to all the people who provided the activities for the children on the field - it was great to be able to offer them a range of dance, football, rugby, cricket and kickboxing to try. What a fun way of raising money for our school - see you all same time next year!





Pippin Dads Walk

£3545

including Gift Aid was raised



What a genius idea these four Pippin dads had in the pub one night….walking 100km across the South Downs to raise money for the PTA! And they certainly did raise money! Setting off after Sports Day, the trek took a total of 27 hours and 120,000 steps, through pouring rain and sweltering sun. We can't thank Damien, Doug, Ed and Owen enough for taking on this challenge - we're looking forward to seeing what they have up their sleeve for next year!

Summer 2024

PTA FUNDRAISING 2024

Thank You!

WOW!



Sports Day Cafe

£880 was raised









If we managed to plan the Family Fun Day for the first sunny day of the year, it feels like Sports Day seemed to fall on the second…what a truly sensational, sunny day it was, encapsulating everything that is so special about our school community. The PTA Cafe was as busy as ever, with berries and pastries flying off the stand, and hot and cold drinks being served non-stop. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out - a phenomenal £880 was raised, not bad for a morning's work. Extra thanks to Jenny Cripps for organising the sale of her brilliant Team GB items - how great that we can now all wander around pretending to be bonafide athletes!



Coco Bongo Disco

amount raised TBC





Coco Bongo once again descended on the Village Hall at the start of July. Rum Swizzles greeted guests on arrival, and DJ Mike spun some serious 90s tunes. Whigfield was played and the Mums of Speldhurst got to demonstrate their synchronised "Saturday Night" dancing (perhaps this can be recreated at next year's fete)! Despite the weather being more of a tropical storm than a tequila sunrise, it was an epic night of fun. Thanks to those who made it out, and helped inflate, deflate, and sweep up too. 90s night, over and out.



KS1 & KS2 Discos

What a special end of term the discos were for our children! It was so wonderful to see both the littler ones and the older ones dancing like no one was watching, and singing along to their favourite tunes with their friends. The fabulous Holly from D2Dance did a fantastic job of keeping the kids moving, with giant conga lines and dance-offs taking place! Even Mr Howe couldn't resist a singalong to Backstreet Boys…Huge thanks to everyone involved in making them happen and looking after the children on the day.





Cake Sales

- Pippin £156
- Jazz £139
- Galaxy Gala £107
- Bramley £137
- Empire £143
- Crispin £130
- Russet £149

Pre-loved Uniform

£271

Summer 2024

KEEP SUPPORTING THE PTA OVER SUMMER

Bag2School Collection

Prepare to clear out your closets over Summer as our next Bag2School collection is booked for **Wed 2nd October!**

Old clothes & books

We need your old clothes and books!
If you're planning a Summer holiday declutter, please hold onto your old clothes and books as we will be collecting both in the Autumn term!
We are planning another second hand book sale in September, and also a Bag2School clothing collection on October 2nd.

Waterproof Clothing Sale

The PTA have been very fortunate to obtain a huge range of top quality Finnish outdoor clothing (from the Reima brand), including coats and waterproofs for children, from their local supplier who is moving back to Finland over Summer. The style and quality of the items is top notch so we will be holding a sale of items at the start of the new term...more details to follow soon.

Our School Lottery

Our School Lottery continues to be a great source of regular 'income' for the PTA, raising £525 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! JTo join just head to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/speldhurst-church-of-england

easyfundraising feel good shopping

You can help us raise valuable funds today by shopping online through our very own shopping portal - and you won't spend any more than going to the retailer's website directly. Simply click below and start shopping!

http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/speldhurstpta/?t=Easyfundraising-lo&v=a

Fundraising by online shopping!

MY NAMETAGS

If you need new nametags for the start of term, remember we have a fundraising account for the PTA with www.mynametags.com

For each order placed with them, they will donate 24% of the order amount back to the PTA. When you place an order please place the following school ID: 36894

COMING UP...

Fireworks Night... Help needed!

Plans are already underway for our Bonfire and Fireworks Event **4-6pm on Saturday 9th November.** This is a wonderful school event for the whole community which everyone loves, whatever the weather! But we do need a lot of help to make it happen...as well as over 90 parent volunteers on the day, we also need: * **a van we could borrow on 9th & 10th Nov * businesses to sponsor the event**

Please get in touch with the PTA via **speldhurstpta@gmail.com** if you are able to help with either of these things. Tickets will go on sale in early October - last year we sold out 7 days before so don't miss out!

OTHER NEWS

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.

Do you follow us on Facebook? If not, head to 'Speldhurst Primary School PTA' to get regular updates!

Get Involved!

WE NEED YOU

How you can help the PTA…

There are so many different ways in which you can help and support the PTA…it does not have to be a big commitment (we promise!). Each and every parent automatically becomes a member of the PTA when joining the school. The PTA committee are those that are elected at the Annual General Meeting to represent all parents. Each committee member has the ability to vote on PTA spending and activity. The committee meet every couple of months to discuss ideas and plans for the coming period. New faces and suggestions for what we can do to better support the school are always very welcome!

The next PTA Meeting:

Thursday 26th September @7.30pm

@ The George & Dragon pub.

Please join us if you can - the more the merrier!

PTA Committee Members & Contact Details:

If you would like to contact us, the PTA email address is speldhurstpta@gmail.com, or feel free to chat to any of us if you see us around school...we're a friendly bunch!

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.

Smartphone Free Childhood Movement

As you may be 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 so please do get in touch if you would like to join this. To find out more information, you can also head to https://onecollectivepower.co.uk/evidence-resources

