Speldhurst CEP School

Winter 2023

PTA NEWSLETTER

Dear Speldhurst Parents

Chair's Summary

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our PTA Christmas Newsletter!

As 2023 comes to an end, writing this newsletter has given us a chance to stop and take stock of everything we have achieved within the PTA in the past 12 months...and what a whirlwind 12 months it has been!

From Silent Auctions to Danceathons and Mini Marathons to 90s discos, there isn't much we haven't covered in our quest to meet our fundraising targets this year! We are delighted to have exceeded every goal we set ourselves, starting with our donation to the new SEN hub at the start of the year (which is now being used every day, making the most incredible difference to the school) and ending with the completion of our very sparkly and impressive new school kitchen. It was such a joy to be able to attend the official opening of the kitchen last month and to sample the freshly prepared food for ourselves - we hope the children are finding the food as delicious as the parents did!

We know it can often feel like the PTA is asking a lot from parents but we hope being able to see how the money has been put to use in the school this year helps to illustrate just how important our fund-raising is for them. Your support this past term in particular has been overwhelming - to be in a position where we have been able to donate sizeable amounts to 2 big projects and yet still have funds leftover to spend on sports and play equipment, school trips and the new Arts space (see our fundraising page for all the details) is really quite remarkable. So, thank you to each and everyone of you who has supported us, whether it be through financial contributions or by showing up to events and volunteering when needed. We really couldn't do it without you!

We must also say a HUGE thank you to our PTA committee members who have worked their socks off to put on so many fantastic events for Speldhurst families to enjoy. We are a very small team who all juggle our PTA time around our day jobs and there are times when we are very overstretched. We are therefore hoping we can welcome some new faces (and new energy!) to the team in 2024. We will be holding our AGM in January and everyone is welcome to attend, plus we will be hopefully hosting a coffee morning or two where you can find out more about how we work.

But for now, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful break with your families!

See you in 2024!
Becky, Kelly, Sean and Steph

Exciting PTA Events & Dates for the Diary 2024

Lego Competition
3rd - 26th January

Empire Cake Sale
Friday 12th January

Deadline for Lego Competition
Friday 26th January

PTA AGM
Tuesday 30th January

Bramley Cake Sale
Friday 9th February

KS1 & KS2 Art Exhibition
Week beginning 26th February

Pippin Cake Sale
Friday 15th March

Preloved Uniform Sale
Friday 22nd March

Wine Tasting Evening
Friday 22nd March

Jazz Cake Sale
Friday 19th April

Galaxy Gala Cake Sale
Friday 10th May

Family Fun Day
Saturday 11th May

Dates for Mini Marathon & Summer Events to be confirmed soon!

Class Reps 2023/24

Our Class Reps do such a fantastic job of supporting the school, parents and PTA throughout the year but we really do keep them on their toes in the run-up to Christmas! We'd like to say a big thank you to them all for all their hard work this term, it's really appreciated

Pippin - Clare Lush-Mansell & Weezie MacPherson
Jazz - Mike Harrowing & Rachel Bourdin
Galaxy Gala - Gabrielle Jenkins & Nicola Ball
Bramley - Alex Pendaries, Helen Peerless & Nicole Pollen
Empire - Liam McLaughlin & Toby Doherty
Crispin - Emma Connolly & Teena Towers
Russet - Charlotte Clark, Emma Montgomery, Heather McDonnell, Polly Moult & Vicky Moran

FUNDRAISING & PTA SPENDING 2023/24

Thank You!

WOW!!

Since the start of term in September, thanks to your help and support, we have raised over...

£15,000

for our wonderful school - wow!!! This takes our fundraising total for 2023 to well over

£30,000

(final amount to be confirmed in our January AGM!).
This is a staggering amount of money for such a small village school and shows how truly blessed we are to have such an active PTA team and such a supportive community of families getting behind everything we do. Thank you!

As you will know, the new school kitchen has had our full focus in the final few months before the build was complete and we are delighted to have not only met but exceeded our fundraising target for this project. Thanks to a last minute charity donation from the John Collings Educational trust of £5,000, we were able to contribute...

£27,000 to the school kitchen project



But it doesn't stop there... Due to the runaway success of the Kitchen Disco danceathon, we also hit our kitchen fundraising target sooner than planned. This has meant that money raised from the Quiz Night, Fireworks Night & Christmas activities will go towards other projects & areas within the school.



FUNDRAISING & PTA SPENDING 2023/24



At our last PTA meeting on December 6th, we agreed to spend...

£1000

New sports & playground equipment

for the children, such as hockey sticks, cricket bats, hula hoops, a highstepper (one to Google!) & more. This will benefit all of the children in the school & will also give our wonderful Year 5 & 6 sports leaders the chance to plan some exciting new lunch break activities for the other children using the new equipment.

We also need to say a very big thank you to Wells Spa Plumbing for agreeing to sponsor 2 new sets of KS2 football kits for use in competitions. We are certain the children will be wearing the kits with pride as they score goal after goal for the school...

£3000

In addition to the above, we have also agreed to contribute..

towards school trips this year.

This works out at around £14 per child and will hopefully help towards the ever-increasing cost of transport to/from visits.

Lastly, we are extremely excited to be able to finally make a start on transforming the old ICT suite located next to the library into a new

Multi-purpose Arts space

which can be used for music, dance, drama and more! We are looking at soundproofing options for the space, together with a new floor, storage options and a lick of paint or two. We hope to begin work on the transformation asap in the New Year and will keep you updated on how it is going!

Thank You! FUNDRAISING & PTA SPENDING 2023/24 WOW!





Bonfire & Fireworks Night

A RECORD BREAKING

£6850

was raised

The Bonfire and Fireworks event on the 5th November went off with a bang! Tickets sold out, the stalls were busy, kids loved the glow gift, sweet tombola and giant candy floss, and the fireworks were simply spectacular. We are delighted to have raised a RECORD amount of money - £6850!! We had over 100 volunteers helping out and could not have done it without you so thank you very much! Special mention needs to go to the truly remarkable Charlotte Williams - it's Charlotte's last year as Speldhurst School parent and we will be SO sorry to see her go. She worked her socks off to make the fireworks event such a huge success and we are extremely grateful to her for all of her hard work.







Kitchen Disco Danceathon

raised

£7238





Well, where do we start on this one?! We are still trying to take in everything that happened on what was a truly special and memorable day for our school.

The first event of its kind, plans for the danceathon started small...and then grew, grew and grew some more! When the first video message from Strictly head judge Shirley Ballas landed in our inbox, we knew we were onto something and within days, we had received messages of support from countless well-known faces, all of whom were so kind as to take the time to wish the children good luck! Then, before we knew it, the BBC were joining us! It was so fantastic to have captured snippets of the day on camera and to see the excitement as the children (and adults!) tried to spot themselves on telly.

So much hard work went into the event and there are too many people to thank here alone but special mentions need to go to Holly and Natalie from D2Dance for running the dance sessions and putting on a brilliant play-ground performance for parents, Phil Harrison for giving up his day to spin some tunes for us, and to Steve from Diamond Interior Contracts for sponsoring the event and allowing us to provide all the children with their very own danceathon t-shirt.

After costs, we ended up smashing our £5k target and raising a phenonemal £7238 for our kitchen fund...we were blown away by this amount and must thank everyone who sponsored their child/children and shared details of the JustGiving page with family and friends. A day we will never forget for sure.





Winter 2023

Thank You! FUNDRAISING & PTA SPENDING 2023/24 WOW!



Christmas Celebrations



Preloved Jumpers £78
Christmas Cards £438
Wreath Workshops £240
Christmas Grotto TBC



It doesn't take much to get us into the festive spirit at Speldhurst School!

We actually kicked off the Christmas cheer a couple of months ago when the children were set to work on creating their Christmas cards in class. Thank you to everyone who purchased copies of the cards, wrapping paper, gift tags, baubles and more, and helped us with our fundraising.

The Christmas countdown then started in earnest with our Grotto day on 1st December - all of the children had a magical day, choosing gifts for their parents and meeting the big man himself! There was even a small snow flurry to add to the excitement! It was lovely to see a selection of the jumpers from our preloved sale on display on the day too - thank you to everyone who donated and made the sale possible.

The celebrations then continued with a pantomime performance of 'The Wizard of Oz' from The Cat's Grin Theatre company. Judging by the laughter coming from the children, they certainly enjoyed the show!

We were also very excited to have hosted our first wreath-making workshops, in collaboration with The Tunbridge Wells Flower Company. Our beautiful Orchard Library was the perfect setting for letting our festive creativity flow and we were seriously impressed with the end results. So wonderful to know everything used to make the wreaths was grown locally too.

We're ending the term with the school Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13th where we will be providing eco-friendly crackers for all of the children, and with the KS2 carol service on 15th where we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies to parents. We must also say a very big thank you to Mitre Farm Christmas Trees for their very generous donation of a tree for our school hall. This was beautifully decorated by our breakfast club children (and maybe tweaked a little later on!).

Cake Sales

Russet £154
Crispin £126

We've now had the first 2 class cake sales of the year - well done to Russet and Crispin classes for putting on a superb spread and for raising a great amount of money for your classes! Empire Class is up next on 12th January so be prepared to abandon any new year's healthy eating resolutions for one day only.

The Big PTA Quiz Night

raised

£792



Quiz night is certainly one of our favourite nights in the PTA calendar! This year, Jon Virgo did yet another sterling job of putting the quiz together and we were tested on our knowledge of everything from how many bones there are in your ear to who the Premier League's top goalscorer of all time is···no wonder so many of us were heading to the bar at regular intervals! It may not surprise you to hear that 'The Wild Ones' were triumphant for yet another year, despite a strong challenge from 'Donald Trump's Barbers' who lost out only on a tiebreaker question. The Teachers finished in a very respectable 3rd place so we can all feel reassured that they do indeed know their 'stuff'. Huge thanks to Sandra Berlin and all the team for putting on a brilliant evening and raising close to £1000 for our school.

Bag2School

raised

£90

Thank you so much to everyone who cleared out their cupboards in support of our Bag2School collection in September. Together your donations raised £90 for our school. We will keep you posted on the next 2024 collection date so please do hold onto any items from your post Christmas clearout in preparation!

Pre-loved Uniform



Thank you to everyone who visited our preloved Winter uniform sale in November. It worked really well holding it in the old ICT suite to allow easy access to different sizes/styles and to allow children to try items on! Our next sale will take place on Friday 22nd March 2024 in time for the switch to Summer uniform but if you need any items in the meantime, please email the team on secondhanduniformsps@gmail.com

Raised an ongoing amount of

£343

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. It really is such a magical and beautiful space for them to come and take time out of their busy days to enjoy some quieter time with books. A huge thank you to Emma Morris for all her hard work in coordinating the volunteers and looking after the library for us, we are very grateful.

Our School Lottery

It's been 6 months since we launched our School Lottery and we've already raised over £600 for our school! There have been 30 lucky families from the school who have won our weekly jackpot…could you be next?

If you haven't already purchased your tickets, please head to the following link. This is a great way of helping with our fundraising and having some fun in the process:

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/speldhurst-church-of-england



The PTA Lego Competition is back for 2024! If you are looking for ways to keep your children entertained over the Christmas break, we hope this will help! Photographs of entries must be sent to us by Wednesday 31st January 2024 – you can do this by emailing pics to speldhurstpta@gmail.com. Multiple entries allowed! Mr Howe will then be putting his judging hat on and picking the winners from KS1 and KS2. Happy building!

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!

Our next AGM Meeting will be on:

Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 7.30pm

at The George & Dragon

So do please add to your diaries and come along to find out more about us if you are interested!

If you don't feel you can commit to the committee (!), you can help by supporting the events we run and volunteering when needed. We really cannot do what we do without volunteers. So, if you see a request for help setting up a gazebo or serving teas and coffees, please do consider helping if you can!

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

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

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: Sean Willis
Vice Chairs: Becky Willis & Kelly Kyte
Treasurer: Steph Elliston
Secretary: Lucy Greenidge
Committee Members:
Charlotte Williams, Chloe Sammons, Deviani Parekh-Jones, Kelly Christmas, Steph Potter, Vicky Trifiletti