Summer 2023

Speldhurst CEP School

PTA NEWSLETTER

Dear Speldhurst Parents

Chairs' Summary

Dear Parents,

Well, what a term it has been! Our feet have hardly touched the ground here in the PTA and we know we have been keeping you all on your toes too with plenty of exciting events and fundraising fun taking place...

It was absolutely fantastic to kick the term off with the news that the funding from the Diocese for the new school kitchen had been approved! And how amazing it is now the build is well underway and we can see the kitchen starting to take shape. Obviously, all this activity has sharpened our focus fully on how we can raise the maximum amount possible to help the school with the 10% they need to pay towards this work. It is a HUGE amount to come up with during a time when costs are high and budgets are tight and we know the school are so grateful for every penny we can contribute. We are therefore delighted to be able to say that, this term alone, we have given the school £15,000 to help the kitchen project get off the ground. We need to say a very big thank you to the organisers of the incredible events we ran this term, including the Mini Marathon, Wine & Cheese Evening, Family Fun Day and Coco Bongo disco, all of which raised a phenomenal amount of money to help us on our way to our target (and they were a great deal of fun too!!).

But the work doesn't stop here...we have committed to raising a further £10,000 for the kitchen when we come back in the Autumn term! It's an ambitious target but one we believe we can meet. We have several fantastic events lined up, including Quiz Night, Fireworks and our very first Kitchen Disco danceathon (which we are ridiculously excited about!). With these taking place, we hope we can reach our goal.

It hasn't all been about the kitchen this year though! We recently gave a brief talk to the new Pippin 2023/4 parents to tell them about the work of the PTA. Before the chat, we totted up how much we have given the school in this school year and we were astonished to find it was close to **£40,000!** This includes £15,000 for the SEN hub (which will be finished any day now), £3500 towards counselling and wellbeing, and £3000 towards school trips. We hope that your children are already experiencing the benefits of this extra funding we are able to provide the school and that they will continue to do so for many years to come.

On that note, it's time to wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable Summer holidays - we are certainly looking forward to a chance to relax and regroup a little (as much as you can with small children!). We can't thank you all enough for all your support this year...for your donations, your time given up to cook sausages, serve coffee and man stalls, and for your enthusiasm and encouragement at every event.

Have a great Summer!
Many thanks,
Becky, Kelly, Sean and Steph

Exciting PTA Events & Dates for the Diary 2023

Tea & Tissues for New Parents
Thursday 7th September

PTA Meeting @ The George & Dragon
Wednesday 13th September
(7.30pm)

Bag2School Collection
Wednesday 20th September

Quiz Night
Friday 6th October

Kitchen Disco Dancethon
Friday 13th October
(during school)

Fireworks non-uniform Day
(bring sweets for the tombola)
Friday 20th October

Year 1 Jazz Class "Build a Guy" event
Friday 3rd November

Fireworks Event
Sunday 5th November

Odd Socks Day
Monday 13th November

Dates for Christmas activities to be announced soon!

Class Reps

We need to say a very big thank you to all our outgoing class reps who have done a brilliant job of keeping on top of things for their classes in what has been an incredibly busy year - we're so grateful for all your help and support! We are very pleased to announced the reps for the 2023/4 school year are now in place - they are:

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

Summer 2023

PTA FUNDRAISING 2022/2023

Thank You!

WOW!!

It won't be a surprise for you to hear that, with limited budgets and the current financial pressures surrounding us all, the funding the PTA provides the school is more important than ever. We are therefore so incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and active PTA committee, and to have such fantastic support from you as parents.

Without the funding the PTA provides, the school would not be able to provide children with much needed equipment, resources and opportunities.





Mini Marathon

£4137 + Gift Aid was raised

Despite one postponement and the rainy weather, the Mini Marathon finally went ahead the first week back after Easter…and it was certainly worth the wait! The children didn't let the weather hamper them or dampen their spirits and they all ran their socks off! It really was lovely to see the school community come together, with parents acting as marshalls, running with the children and cheering the children on. A special mention must also go out to our Marathon mascots - the incredible Easter Bunny, Carrot and Chick! Thanks to the support of our wonderful parents and local businesses, a phenomenal amount of money was raised which will make the biggest difference to our school!









Wine & Cheese Evening

£1205 was raised

This was the first Wine and Cheese evening run under the current PTA and it's definitely set to become a regular feature! We were treated to a selection of fabulous wines to sample (in rather generous amounts!), all provided by The Secret Cellar, who also joined us for the evening to share their expertise. Cheese boards were then provided by The Cheese Shop TW - a perfect pairing with the wine. And we must give a special mention to the desserts made by parents for the auction! A huge thank you to everyone who joined us and to those who helped organise the evening. We are so pleased that we raised such a fantastic amount… it really was a wine-derful night all round!

Summer 2023

PTA FUNDRAISING 2022/2023

Thank You!

WOW!







Family Fun Day

£1758 was raised



What an amazing day we all had - we lucked out with the weather for yet another year and even the King made an appearance! We had dance workshops, kickboxing workshops, ice lollies sold by St Mary's Church, Tug of War, arts and crafts, bouncy castles, Beat the Goalie and a trail of Royals to track down.The All Stars cricket was a huge success with lots of budding cricket stars shining through. Thank you to everyone who came along to show their support, helped on stalls and joined in with all the events on offer. We look forward to seeing what next year's Family Fun Day will bring!



Music Concerts

£315 was raised

We were very fortunate to have been contacted by a former Speldhurst pupil and music manager, Sebastian Merrick, at the start of the year to ask whether the PTA would be interested in collaborating with him on a series of music concerts he had scheduled to take place in the village hall. We jumped at the chance and so far, we have provided refreshments for 2 events - one by Portuguese artist, Duarte, and one with 'Hues of Imagination', two female musicians from India and Turkey. These events have raised over £300 for us so far and have brought a new world of music to the village!





Coronation Dress-up Day

£100 was raised

We couldn't let the Coronation of our new King go by without some form of royal-themed celebration and there's nothing we love more than seeing the children stroll through the school gates in the morning in fancy dress! Thank you to all of you for making such a fantastic effort with the children's outfits and well done to the worthy winners in each class. You all balanced your crowns far better than Charles did on his big day!



Coronation Tea-Towels

Amount raised tbc

Who doesn't love a school tea towel? Judging by the number of orders placed, the Speldhurst School community certainly still do! The children did a wonderful job with their drawings…the likeness in the staff portraits was truly phenomenal in some cases (check out Mr McCheyne!). It was lovely to be able to add a royal theme again this year too. A big thank you to Katie Harle for all her hard work in making sure all the drawings were in on time and weren't stuck to the template upside down!

Summer 2023

PTA FUNDRAISING 2022/2023



Coco Bongo Disco

£1215 was raised

Coco Bongo returned to Speldhurst with a bang! Guests were treated to a complimentary rum swizzle on arrival, and despite the wet weather, the tropical vibes were flowing. Star-studded guests fully embraced the 90s theme with All Saints, Blur, Oasis, B*witched, Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson in attendance, not forgetting the odd Spice Girl. Sequins sparkled, vodka jellies were consumed, fantastical Photo Booth props were donned and the dance floor was full. Huge thanks to those who volunteered on the BBQ, Bar, and to the team who made this happen. We are over the moon to have raised more than £1,000 for the new kitchen. Thank you!







Sports Day Cafe £930 was raised

What an incredibly special day Sports Day was! The perfect example of the amazing community spirit we are so lucky to have at our school. The Sports Day Café was a HUGE success, taking over £900 (which is £300 an hour!). Clearly the pastries and berries were a hit! A special thank you to Driscolls Fruit for providing the berries at no cost and allowing us to add even more to our kitchen fundraising pot. We're just wondering whether the teachers have managed to agree yet on who won the teachers' race...



Pre-Loved Uniform

£208 was raised

We have had two fantastically supported pre-loved uniform sales since April - the 'Summer Uniform' sale and the 'New to Reception' sale. Unfortunately, due to the change of location of the uniforms, we haven't been able to be as active with sales during term as we would like to be. If you need any uniform during the Summer, please email us on **secondhanduniformsps@gmail.com** and we will try to get it to you before the start of the Autumn term. A date for our Winter Uniform sale wll be announced shortly. If anyone has any Speldhurst PE t-shirts and hoodies to donate, they would be welcomed. Thank you to everyone who has supported this eco-friendly venture!

Summer 2023

PTA FUNDRAISING 2022/2023

Thank You!

WOW!





Cake Sales

Pippin £117.02	Jazz £131.80	Galaxy Gala £129.30	Bramley £138.55	Empire £156.05	Crispin £140.10	Russet £147.62

Unlike other PTA fundraising which goes into the 'overall pot', the cake sales are there to specifically raise money for each class. The class teachers are very grateful for the extra money the cake sales bring as it enables them to buy a little extra for their classrooms. Examples are: Jazz Class spent their cake sale money on a set of 'Talking Tins' (to support sentence creation) and a mud kitchen. Bramley Class bought lots of lovely fiction books to offer more variety to children at all reading levels - this was very much needed as the children have been so enthusiastic about their reading this year so they needed some exciting new book choices. The majority of the books chosen are part of a series to try and help the children find new authors and series to read. And Miss Hambleton has bought Empire Class a set of personalised pens!





School Discos

amount raised tbc next term

The discos proved to be the perfect end to the school year! Both the KS1 and KS2 children had a ball and it was a joy to see them all letting their hair down. We even spotted Mrs Hayward having a bop at the end! The children all behaved beautifully and made the job of the supervising parents very easy. Thank you to the fab team who made these discos happen and to everyone who helped out on the day.





Summer 2023

PTA SPENDING 2022/2023

WOW!

WOW!

During this school year alone, the PTA has raised over

£25,000

and has donated nearly

£39,000

to the school - WOW!!!

A breakdown of where some of this money has been spent:

£3,500 counselling & wellbeing

£15,000 for the new school kitchen (with more to follow)

£15,000 for the new SEN space

£3000 towards school trips

£310 keyboard stands for the Art space

£100 2nd hand stage for the Art space

£170 pencil cases for Year 3

£182 Year 6 Dictionaries



As mentioned, it is still full steam ahead with our fundraising for the new **school kitchen** with another **£10,000** to be raised in the Autumn term! We have some fantastic events lined up but if you have any ideas of other ways to boost our kitchen pot, please do get in touch. Also, if you work for a company that likes to support local charities, whether through sponsorship or match-funding or similar, please do let us know. We need all the help we can get to reach our target and help our school!

Summer 2023

OTHER NEWS

Our School Lottery

We are so excited to now have our own School Lottery up and running! It has certainly got off to a stunning start - well done to the 9 weekly winners we have already had from the school...who will 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

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

Bag2School Collection

Prepare to clear out your closets over Summer as our next Bag2School collection is booked for
Wed 20th September!



Get Involved!

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:

The next PTA meeting will take place on

Wednesday 13th September @7.30pm

in 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: Sean Willis
Joint Vice Chairs: Becky Willis & Kelly Kyte
Treasurer: Steph Elliston
Secretary: Lucy Greenidge
Committee Members:
Charlotte Williams, Chloe Sammons, Deviani Parekh-Jones, Kelly Christmas, Stephanie Potter, Sarah Taylor.

School Library

Library sessions have continued to run every week with our lovely team of parent volunteers coming in to help. It's great to see how much the children enjoy coming to the library and taking time out of their busy days to enjoy some quieter time with books. Dr Seuss said "You canfind magic wherever you look, sit back and relax, all you need is a book!" and this definitely resonates, hearing the children happily discussing their favourite books and authors and making recommendations to each other! A big well done too to all the Library team who have been going in at every opportunity to label books, organise and tidy up. More helpers are always needed so please do get in touch if you could spare an hour or two next year.

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