

All Saints First School Denstone

PTA Newsletter

October 2013

Welcome everyone to the first PTA newsletter of the year. The PTA Committee has lots to share with you in this newsletter about some exciting events planned over the next few months, and about some interesting fundraising ideas we're eager to put into action. But, first, let us introduce ourselves to you. This year the PTA Committee members are:

Chair	Marianne James
Vice Chair	Alyson Whitaker
Secretary	Fiona Pegg
Treasurer	Caroline Moyes

General Committee Members

Ellen Layton
Julia Smith

Staff Representative

Shirley Swift



We are a very committed and enthusiastic group of parents, looking forward to raising money for the school and to organising a variety of events that, hopefully, will appeal to both children and grown-ups, and will help to cement the school community.

As you see, this year we are a small team, which means that we are also likely to be a very busy team! We always welcome extra pairs of hands helping us out at our various events, so if you would like to lend a hand at any of our upcoming events, please let one of us know. For new parents to our school, this is a good way of meeting other parents and gaining a clearer insight into school life. It can also be fun! So, why not give it a go and join us in running one of our forthcoming events? You will see us at the school gates and, of course, at events supported by the PTA. And please feel free to approach any of our team if you have anything you want to discuss and/or feedback to us about the PTA's work.

Year Representatives

In previous years we have found that the flow of communication between the PTA and parents is helped when members of the Committee also act as year representatives for individual year groups. Usually, two Committee members (one representing the boy's parents and one representing the

girl's parents) will represent a year that one of their children is in as, inevitably, they will know more parents in their children's year group(s). This year we do not have a parent from each year group represented on the Committee and so have enlisted the help of a few 'seasoned' parents to act as a link between the PTA and their year group. The Year Representatives are as follows:

Reception:	Millicent Price (for the girl's parents) Mary Haynes (for the boy's parents)
Year 1:	Fiona Pegg (girls) Sarah Forrester (boys)
Year 2:	Ellen Layton (for boys and girls)
Year 3:	Marianne James (girls) Alyson Whittaker (boys)
Year 4:	Caroline Moyes (girls) Julia Smith (boys)

Fundraising News

Before we update you with details of future fundraising activities, we are delighted to inform you that a fantastic £633 was raised at our popular end of year band night at Denstone Village Hall.

Huge thanks to all the individuals and businesses that supported our cause and helped make the



evening such a success by donating raffle prizes, lending us equipment and generally helping out. There is, however, one raffle prize that remains unclaimed. We have two premier tickets for Uttoxeter Racecourse still sitting in our cupboard. If you think you know who won this prize, can you please let us know so that we can get the tickets to the lucky winner.

Last year, the PTA raised **£3,170** for our school from holding a number of fundraising events, running refreshment stalls, selling second hand uniforms, and much more. £2,610 of this money was spent, mostly on enhancing our children's learning experiences by contributing towards the cost of various school trips (and, therefore, reducing the amount we, parents, have to pay), supporting the regeneration of the school's fantastic garden and wildlife area, and paying for equipment for the school.

This year, the PTA hopes to focus its fundraising efforts on raising money for a specific learning tool for our children. Currently, the school is looking into upgrading its I.T. equipment, but some further technical investigations are required before a final decision can be made regarding this. Hopefully, we will be able to update you with what's happening in our next newsletter, and thus let you know what the PTA's fundraising goals are for this year. In the meantime, here are some upcoming events to log in your diary:

Coffee Morning for New Parents to our School

Friday, 18th October 9.15 – 10.45 a.m.

Did you know that 14-20 October is National Baking Week? Knowing what marvellous bakers we have amongst us, we decided that it would be a great idea to celebrate both this event and our school's baking talents by hosting a Coffee Morning/Cake Sale for all parents, with new parents to our school being especially welcome. Grandparents are also very welcome to join us and share cake! Cake donations for the event will be gratefully received. Just let your Year Representative or a Committee member know if you are able to provide a cake for the morning.



As home baking is making a massive comeback, and more and more children are enjoying baking as a result of this, we thought why not also celebrate National Baking Week by letting the children showcase their baking talents to us at the Coffee Morning. The idea is that any keen bakers in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2) bake cookies/biscuits/shortbread at home, and that any Key Stage 2 children (Years 3 & 4) with a passion for baking bring in some decorated fairy cakes for the event. David Spencer, a former baker and a grandfather at this school, has kindly agreed to 'judge' the baking and comment on the biscuits/cakes brought in. David's comments will then be fed back to the children during that afternoon's normal assembly. Any children who wish to show their biscuits/cakes should bring them (with their name written on) into school on the Friday morning.

Bags2School

Thursday, 7th November

Bags2School are the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and, since its inception in 2001, has paid out over £7m million. By getting involved in our Bags2School collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and donate unwanted textiles in the special bag that you will be provided with. This includes adult and kids clothing, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, bags, soft toys, curtains and bedding (not duvets or pillows). The school receives £0.50 per kg donated, and last year made over £300 from this simple initiative – a great boost to our fundraising work. What's more, this collection also helps raise our children's awareness of the benefits of recycling and re-using items.

Every year we arrange two collections. The first will take place on Thursday, 7th November. The special collection bags will be distributed via the children's reading folders a few weeks before the collection date, giving you plenty of time to sort through and de-clutter your cupboards.

Christmas Shopping Night

Thursday, 14th November 2013

An event that is generating much excitement amongst Committee members is the shopping evening that we are organising for mid-November. This will be our opportunity to treat you to a fabulous and relaxed shopping experience before Christmas mania sets in!! There will be something for everyone - and to suit all purses - from beauty products galore to gorgeous and unique local crafts and jewellery - ideal as exclusive Christmas gifts. Our shopping event is **guaranteed** to get you into the festive spirit! We will also have our very own PTA stall selling local (or locally connected) homemade produce that you can buy to make Christmas hampers



with provenance (very “in” at the moment!). Any donations of homemade jams, chutneys, pickles, wine and, not forgetting Christmas puddings and cakes, will be very gratefully received. We’ll keep you posted with more details about this event as time goes on.

The 100 Club

All Saints PTA would like to join the multitude of other schools and organisations that run a 100 (or 50 or 200) Club as a successful way of raising money for their cause. What is a 100 Club, you ask? Put simply, it’s like a lottery. For a 100 Club there will be 100 numbered lottery tickets and each month parents, teachers and friends of the school pay a fixed subscription for their number(s). Each numbered ticket is entered into a monthly draw and the lucky winners will receive cash prizes – a percentage of the profits. The remainder of the profit goes to PTA funds. A letter from Ellen Layton explains in more detail how this fundraising enterprise will operate at our school. Do please read it and join our club – you never know, you and your family could end up being lucky winners!

Match Fund

Have you heard about this easy, yet profitable way of raising money for your school? This is how it works. Many UK companies offer their employees the chance to boost their fundraising by “matching” the money their employee raises for their chosen charity (the PTA is a charity). Companies that offer match-funding schemes include the following (but there are lots more):

Tesco	Asda
Marks & Spencer	Barclays Bank
J Sainsbury	DHL
Abbey National	HSBC
Alliance & Leicester	Kingfisher
Natwest Group	Royal Bank of Scotland
Norwich Union	Bibby International Logistics

If you work for any of the above, please ask your employer to consider matching the money raised for our school from fundraising efforts. If your employer is not listed above, then we kindly ask you to check whether your company operates a match giving scheme (usually, your HR department will be able to advise on this). Securing match funding really could boost the PTA’s annual income, and enable us to further enhance our children’s learning experiences at school. So, please, please ask ...

More Information & News

As we head towards the crazy Christmas period, the PTA will keep you regularly updated with news about further fundraising projects and social events. And, if you have a great fundraising idea, or have any suggestion to make to the PTA, then please tell us. Meanwhile, we hope you can join us (or even help out?) at our Coffee Morning on Friday, 18th October.

Marianne, PTA Chair

