

PSA NEWSLETTER – February 2023

Respect Teamwork Responsibility Understanding Peace Honesty

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the PSA. Read on to find out how some of the money raised over the last year has been spent, events in the pipeline and how you can get involved.

YOUR PSA COMMITTEE

Chair: Karen Hosker

Vice Chairs: Owen Vloothuis and Jemma Scott

Secretary: Cat Gray

Treasurer: Lisa Rolfe

Class Reps: Reception – Stacy Flood, Year 1 – Carrie Jones, Year 2 – Vikki Jordan, Year 3 – Natalie Marsden, Year 4 – Helen Cholowo, Year 5 – Nikki Cato & Charlotte Devereux, Year 6 – Emily Wright & Natasha Kemp

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 March 2023
PSA Meeting
8pm via Teams

May 2023
Spring Fete

10 June 2023
Chesham Carnival

RECENT FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Christmas disco £245

Wreath making evening £347

Christmas fair £930

Rotary Club Santa float £400

Christmas cards and gifts £415

We need YOU!

The PSA is looking for a new Chair. Are you good at working with teams of people? The Chair leads meetings and the coordination of the volunteers at each event. The Chair doesn't have to organise all the events themselves. There's always a team of volunteers enlisted to help with each event. The new Chair will have the full support of members of the PSA who have previously helped organise the events and can provide plenty of advice and guidance where needed. It could even be a shared role.

As the PSA is a registered charity, we do need to have a Chairperson to be able to keep running. For a small school we always achieve so much when we come together to work to a common goal - raising money for our children's school and enhance their learning journey. It would be a real tragedy if we were to have to stop.

If you are interested in taking over as Chair, please email or WhatsApp Karen Hosker or Lisa Rolfe, or catch Lisa on the school playground on a Friday.

Also, if you would like to be on the wider committee please get in touch with us at hawridgepsa@hotmail.com or speak to a member of the committee. Being part of the committee means helping to organise and plan, sharing ideas and bringing events to life.

Next PSA Meeting

If you have any ideas for fundraising events, would like to be involved or just want to listen in to see what goes on then please join the next PSA meeting on 8 March at 8pm. We would love to see you there.

Microsoft Teams meeting
Meeting ID: 364 114 238 01
Passcode: 88cqdw

What's on...

Quiz Night

We have a Volunteer to be quiz master and a volunteer to assist with buying/ordering Food & Drink. However, we are looking for a volunteer(s) to help organise the rest! Is this something you can do? Please get in touch if so. It is a less intense event to organise and has been a really good fun fab fundraiser in the past!

Hamper Raffle

Each class is given a theme or colour (TBC) and children bring in items to make up a hamper which are then available to win in a raffle. Would you like to help organise this event?

How PSA fundraising has been used

At the PSA AGM, Mrs Phillips identified some key areas where the school would really benefit from some PSA funding. We were very pleased to be able to donate £4,500!

The £4,500 has been spent on:

- EYFS & KS1 Phonics resources
- Oxford dictionaries for each child in years 3 to 6
- Usborne Thesauruses for each child in years 3 to 6
- Write Stuff Program - a new learning program the school is implementing throughout the whole school
- The Reading Book Shed
- Father Christmas gifts to each class
- Year 6 leavers books

These funds are all from the proceeds of the PSA events, so it's a really big thank you to everyone who has supported the events - the organisers, volunteers, bakers, and attendees - it's your support that has enabled us to purchase some fantastic additional resources for all of the children.


ICT Donations

At the last PSA meeting, Mrs Phillips mentioned the school were in need of some equipment computer equipment for the ICT suite. The school was in need of some monitors, keyboards and mice. A parent's employer came to the rescue donating a number of the items which now means there are enough computers for one per child and the teacher in all the lessons in the ICT suite. So a very big thank you to Wood. for the generous donations.

If your employer is ever undergoing an IT or furniture upgrade, please do consider the school when disposing of the equipment. The school is currently looking into upgrading its ipads, if you know of any going spare please get in touch with Mrs King in the school office to check the spec required.

Amazon book wish list

Each class has a book wish list and we have just helped the school to update these. Further details and links to each wish list will be sent out by the school shortly.



Hawridge & Cholesbury PSA AGM minutes - Held on 2 November 2022

Attendees:

Mrs Phillips, Mrs Davey, Karen, Jemma, Owen, Lisa, Kim, Carrie, Naomi, Natalie, Graham, Marina, Tony & Sarah, Vicky

Fundraising & General matters

Karen ran through the most successful events of the past year – with key fundraisers being the Rotary Santa Float, Carnival and the Spring Fair. The cycling event brought to the fore the ongoing issue with securing enough volunteers to make these events successful. Thanks go to the class reps, who have been key in spreading the word and engaging parents but ideas for how to increase engagement at these events and how we might target some of the new parents are needed.

Karen will be stepping aside in her role as Chair from January 2023 and so the PSA will be looking to fill this role.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa delivered the treasurer's report: figures covered the last academic year. Key earners were the Fairs (Spring & Christmas, Christmas cards and the Santa float). The first cycle event raised over £900 – an event which has good potential although possibly its position as the first event post Covid added to its success.

The PSA made 2 payments to the school totalling approx £6k towards last year's wish list.

Lisa discussed leaving a 'slush fund' buffer for emergencies whilst deciding on how to spend the money this year. This buffer was very important in helping the school prepare for receiving children back during Covid.

Wish List

Mrs Phillips then took us through the current Wish-list after a brief discussion about the Shepherds hut progress: the school is trying to ascertain whether the buildings can be physically manoeuvred onto the site before committing any further funds to the planning process.

Reading Resources - approx £2500

The school invested in the first phase of the Read, Write Inc. program resources. The current resources need enhancing further with additional phonics resources for KS1. For Y5 and Y6, the school would like to purchase dictionaries and thesauruses (approx 15 per class each).

Writing Resources – approx. £500

Support towards a new 'Write Stuff' training course – including planning materials and classroom resources (posters/ charts and stickers).

Reading Book Shed – approx £200

The School Council has already raised some funds. Money is required to waterproof the book shed and make it workable.

Furniture & Equipment for IT Suite – Figure not known

2 x keyboards and screens are required for some donated hard drives (plus a desk for them). These would mean that children in the larger classes would all have a computer. Some PSA members to ask at their places of work, if any equipment could be donated before anything is purchased.

Plus usual contributions to Father Christmas Gifts & the Y6 Leavers' Event

Approx total - £4K needed

The PSA is happy to cover these amounts leaving a smaller slush fund. The next PSA newsletter will update on how funds are benefitting the school including of images of the children using their fantastic new resources.

On the discussion of books, Kim will re-circulate the link for the Amazon wish list so that parents new to this, can learn how to contribute and Mrs Phillips will ask teachers to update it for their year group. Kim to write a note to be shared with parents.

Forthcoming Fundraising Events

The PSA Newsletter has gone out with key dates for diaries:

Christmas Disco – Fri 2nd Dec

Tori is organising and will need volunteers again.

Wreath making – Mon 12th Dec 2022

Volunteers needed to help with serving drinks (alongside Karen) and tidying up plus gathering foliage/ cones/ spray for the class on Sunday 11th. Tony Hearn has kindly offered to help with gathering. Mrs Davey to repurpose last year's letter.

Christmas After School Event - Fri 16th Dec 2022

Mrs Phillips has agreed that school can finish a little early on this day and that children can wear Christmassy clothes/ non-uniform plus a donation. Ideas for rooms/ stalls on the playground:

- Present room;
- Mulled wine/ hot choc;
- Cakes & biscuits;
- Bottle tombola & jolly jar tombola;
- Treasure hunt;
- A Y5 & a Y6 stall to help with engagement of the higher years and their parents – possibly a competition – do children want to come up with an idea to run a game each? Mrs Phillips to discuss with the relevant teachers.

Jemma to be added to the class rep WhatsApp group and put a note on there to ask for ideas for stalls and games.

Rotary Float - Sat 10th Dec 2022

10 walkers needed plus a Santa. Vix will ask the previous Santa if he is happy to do this again and put a shout out for volunteers. Does anyone in the school have a Santa suit they can donate? Otherwise, PSA to donate funds to purchase a suit for Santa since the previous one is missing!

Spring Fair – Sat 20th May 2023

Carnival – Sat 10th June 2023

Planning for 2023 Carnival is underway. In the New Year we will pick up on asking for any volunteers to assist the new Carnival leads (Jo & Audrey- parents in Y2)

AOB

Increasing parent engagement

It was discussed that the PSA could do a mini presentation at upcoming parent events – such as the Nativity to capture new parents and be more visible.

Quiz

Discussion was had about combining the Spring Fair with a cycle event or a possible outdoor cinema night. It was decided that something to get parents together/ increase engagement and something non-weather-dependant, such as a quiz night for parents should go in the diary for maybe February.

Hampers

Possible Easter fundraiser TBC

Join the Facebook group

Keep up to date with everything that's going on by joining the School Facebook group. Search Hawridge & Cholesbury School and request to join.