



Friends of Halsford Park

July 2022 Newsletter



Email: halsford.pta@gmail.com Web: www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhalsfordpark

Not Quite Normal

Is there such a thing as a 'normal' PTA? Probably not 🤖. A 'normal' PTA year? Hopefully that does exist and might be coming soon! While 2021/22 has shown positive signs of a return to normality, we have still been challenged by the effects of Covid and limitations to our fundraising.

Not to be deterred, we have managed to pack a lot in to the last school year (see right), and at the time of writing, have achieved an astounding fundraising total of...

£17,840

In addition to this, we have secured grants worth £9,403. The majority of these grants have contributed towards the playground improvement project (see more information on p2), but have also enabled us to purchase equipment for outdoor learning, and helped subsidise the entertainment and refreshments at Party at the Park last September.

For more detail of what we have raised, how we raised it, and what it has been spent on, check out the last page of this newsletter.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our efforts this year, it is very much appreciated. We hope to see you for even more events and fundraising next year!

Did The Grinch Steal Christmas?



With Covid restrictions limiting indoor gatherings at the end of 2021, we had hoped to hold an outdoor 'Grotto and the Grinch' event in place of the traditional Christmas fair, but it wasn't to be. A tightening of restrictions at the eleventh hour meant plans had to be shelved... but we still managed to deliver over 100 goodie bags to children who missed out on a grotto experience, send personalised letters from Santa, hold a fantastic wreath-making workshop with tuition from Garden Room Crafts and raise nearly £2,000 from our Christmas raffle and the sale of Christmas puddings.

During lockdown, we found success in running trails during the school holidays. Thanks to continued demand for this kind of activity, we ran a popular Easter trail during the school holidays in April, raising £340.



This year has seen the return of tuck shop, Ice Cream Fridays and sports day refreshments, as well as non-uniform days with cash or other physical donations. We have been thrilled to be able to run a quiz night (which raised £778), a spare change challenge (raising £656), have a stall at the Lions May Fair (which raised £451), and hold our own jubilee-themed summer fair as well (total raised, £5,309).

It's not over yet! We are delighted to be able to hold our first proper indoor event for the children since pre-Covid on Friday 15 July, with two discos (one for each Key Stage) after school. For more details, to buy tickets and to donate towards our non-uniform day which is on the same date, follow this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/FoHPEvents>

Our Committee and Trustees

As you will have seen from recent letters, our four trustees are stepping down at the next AGM, due in September. For Claire and Rebecca (our Co-Chairs) and Emily (our Treasurer) this is due to increased work commitments, and for Sarah (our Secretary) this is because eleven years volunteering including six years as Secretary is enough!

The great news is, we've had four new members join our recent committee meetings, one of whom is interested in a trustee role for next year and another keen to take on the job of designer (not a trustee role, but still very important!). In addition, six of our existing committee (not including school staff members) plan to remain involved. Not only that, but the £8,000 'committed spend' for everything the PTA regularly funds is already in the bank and ring fenced for 2022-23.

We are in such a strong position for next year **but** the PTA cannot continue as a registered charity without the trustee roles being filled. If you might be interested in becoming our next Chair (or Co-Chair) Treasurer or Secretary, here is a reminder of what each role entails:

Chair: The Chair's overarching role is to lead, oversee and guide the committee. The Chair runs PTA meetings and agrees the agenda and minutes. Although a lot of tasks can be delegated and are supported by other committee members, the Chair is also responsible for the set up and running of the PTA's events and initiatives and is the main point of contact with the school. It is the Chair's responsibility to write an annual report for the AGM, and along with the Treasurer and Secretary, to ensure the charity is well managed in line with the PTA's governing document (constitution).

Treasurer: The Treasurer's main role is to look after the charity's finances, which involves updating spreadsheets with figures from the charity bank account and processing expenses. The Treasurer is also responsible for organising floats for events.

Every month the Treasurer produces a report, showing a breakdown of how much money has been raised and what is held in reserve for specific projects. The Treasurer is also responsible for sending an annual report to the Charity Commission.

Secretary: The Secretary's main role is to organise committee meetings, including preparing agendas, recording attendance, compiling and distributing minutes. The Secretary also deals with correspondence, which is primarily in the form of email. The Secretary tends to get involved with tasks such as writing letters and newsletters and updating Facebook or the PTA website, but these duties can be shared.

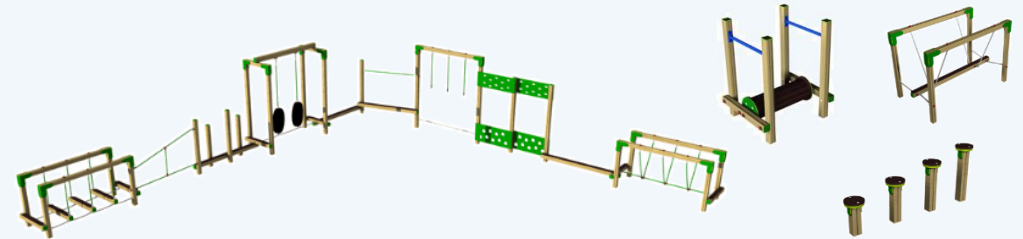
Playground Improvements: Update

Over the Christmas break last year, phase 1 of our playground improvement project was completed, providing a quiet area with storytelling space, benches and a table tennis table on what was an unusable mud patch on the KS2 playground.



Our fundraising focus then turned to phase 2, the replacement of the KS2 trim trail. Thanks to our events, initiatives and grants, we now have approximately £30,000 set aside for the new equipment. The old trim trail has been removed, and an order has been placed for the new trim trail to be installed in early August.

The design of the trim trail has been based on the opinions of the children, gathered during an online vote earlier this year. It will feature an L-shaped adventure trail as well as stepping logs, a swinging log and treadmill. Hopefully the new equipment will enhance play times for many years to come.



Secondhand Uniform

As the end of term draws near, chances are you have some old uniform you know your child will no longer need in September. Even if it's not in great condition, we would be very happy to take it off your hands so it can be re-sold for funds or upcycled. We accept any purple branded jumpers/cardigans/coats as well as purple summer dresses.

We now have a permanent collection bin for secondhand uniform under the bikesheds. If you wish to donate over the summer, please email halsford.pta@gmail.com.

Ways to Stay Involved

Even in the summer break, you can still help the PTA! Check out our webpage which gives you some examples of how you can support us all year round:

<https://tinyurl.com/SupportHPPTA>

Alternatively, if you want to get in touch, you can contact us via the Facebook group or email: halsford.pta@gmail.com



FRIENDS OF HALSFORD PARK SCHOOL

RAISED **£27,243** IN 2021/2022!

