

Oakwood PTA News

Over and out...

This is my last newsletter as Chair before stepping down for a break at October's AGM. I hope to bring in the new school year by encouraging others to join in the fun and help make the "PTA load" lighter for all.

We've got an amazing treasurer in Amy and both Sam and Laura have made valuable contributions over my last two years to ensure all our work is documented and available for all who come next. Check out our website for all our last minutes, newsletters and posters - with thanks to our graphics genius Rachael.

Your generous support has helped us **raise an amazing £24,000** that will enhance all our children's learning in 23/24.

New events this year included Hair Braiding, the Great Oakwood Bake Off and changes to the Christmas Market stalls. Of course many of our old favourites; Oakfest, £2 room, Easter fair and even our sustainable costume and uniform sales made their return and we're looking forward to seeing how the PTA may evolve going forward with new parent ideas leading the way. Please contact any of the PTA or via our email on oakwoodptachair@gmail.com or join us at our next meeting on 12th September if you'd like to help us next year and be part of this really great team.

Finally, a big thank you to all the staff in the office for their help this year making it a really great PTA to be Chair of.

Have a fantastic summer, see you in September!

Clare Oakwood PTA Chair

Dates for your diary...

July

20 2nd Hand Uniform donations

September

8 New Acorns Coffee Morning

12 PTA Meeting

16 New Acorns Picnic

23 Oakwood Olympics TBC

October

17 AGM & PTA Meeting

December

9 Parent's Xmas Party

13 14 Panto Alban Arena

Past Events

Karaoke Evening

On a hot June Friday evening, 70 Oakwood parents (and some former parents) gathered at The Barn for the 2nd (and now annual) "Do'in it for the Kids" karaoke night. With awards to win, we were entertained by solo artists, duets and groups with some dance moves thrown in for good measure. Props have started to make an appearance now so who knows what next year will hold! Hosted by Emma and Brett Hossack, it was a massive hit and proof why these events are so important for our community.

We made £800, great memories, and some sore heads the next day. Let's go again in June 2024!



Past Events

Oakfest 2023

Thank you to everyone who came to this year's Oakest. This is such an important event for both the school and the local community and it was amazing to see so many people attending again. There was plenty of activities and entertainment this year, enjoyed by over 500 people!

A big thank you to Samtastic for bringing his show to the stage, we again enjoyed delicious food from Somru's Spice Kitchen alongside newcomers Bandito's Pizza where the Oakwood dads revealed their dough skills.

Congratulations to Sienna Hossack and Scarlet Osbourne who kept both the kids and the parents moving with their street dance lessons! The inflatable obstacle course was back with an added adults race and the new rodeo ride was a big hit. A big thank you to Peter Templeman who provided the wooden games in the hall, and well done to the Year 5 & 6 pupils who ran the face painting and rub-on tattoo sessions. There were plenty of activities in the crafts area, and the photo tent made another appearance. Please feel free to share your photos on the PTA Facebook page!

SOAKfest made a return in the field to provide much fun and chaos! Well done to Jenna Roberts for bringing back the bingo and a big thank you to Dave Roberts and Steve Fry for keeping the annual quiz going. Everyone had an amazing time and the band Blonde Rebel were able to smash out a full uninterrupted set this year, with help from Oakwood dad Brett Hossack.

A huge thank you to all of those that helped make it happen. The planning team, the set up team, the food teams, the bar and tuck shop teams, and those that helped clear up on Saturday night and Sunday morning. It really is a team effort and we can't thank the volunteers enough. Lastly the biggest thanks must go to Andrew Harvey for organising this hugely popular event for a second year.

We are thrilled to have raised £4,231!

for the school and hopefully more people will get involved next year to make 2024 an even bigger success.



Past Events

Ice Lolly sales

We've had another three successful lolly sales this summer term so far. As popular as ever **they've raised £472.** Thank you to all helpers, and to the parents and children for purchasing.

Summer Disco

In June we had the return of the summer disco. Over 225 children attended across the two different disco's with DJ Mole keeping the children dancing and having fun throughout.

DJ Mole will be back with us again in the Autumn term for another round of discos!

We raised £601.

Uniform Sales



Thank you to everyone who donated uniform towards the sale.

We raised an amazing £278.

Not only does the sale raise funds for the school but also has huge benefits for our environment. Look out for dates for the next sale. We plan to run another sale in the early part of the Autumn term.

For those families who will be leaving Oakwood this summer, if you would like to donate uniform then please place in black bin bags completely sealed. There will be labelled boxes at the entrance (by the scooter area) on Thursday 20th July for you to drop it off.

We need you!

OAKWOOD
OLYMPICS

Do you love a spreadsheet?

Hopefully you'll have seen we are looking for a new event organiser for Oakwood Olympics for September. Marie did a great job reviving it last year after covid stopped play, and put a lot of effort into contacting sports clubs to get them involved once again. We need one or two people who are great at spreadsheets to take on the role and bring this unique opportunity for children to try all sorts of new sports and active challenges (like dancing) back to the comfort of their own familiar school grounds. It's a super event that can help children get a taster for something they may not otherwise get to do. Ideas on new sports are always welcome too. To ensure it can go ahead we need someone in place before the end of July to contact the clubs or unfortunately it will not go ahead.

Gardening

This term we have completed another successful year of KS1 gardening classes. (So much so that KS2 look set to get their hands dirty next year! - watch this space for the next lend-a-hand day!).

Ash, Beech and Cherry have grown a variety of flowers, fruits and vegetables. They have built TeePee's to support peas and sweet peas, drawn beautiful artwork of the plants they have grown and learnt about the life cycle of plants and how to help them grow healthy and strong. In the final session of the term the children also got to taste a variety of things grown in the garden! Thank you to the army of parent helpers who have supported the children this term, we couldn't have done it without you!

Please note that to enable Gardening time in school three parents from each class are required. We have very good notes to handover, so don't worry about that! If your child will be in Ash, Beech, or Cherry next year then please get in contact asap as we need a leader for each class for September 2023 (you will need to sign up for the Safeguarding training with Mrs Thompson if you haven't already).

We need you!



...and finally

A word from Mrs Thompson

Thank you so much to the PTA for all their help and hard work this year. It's lovely to see how much the children look forward to and enjoy events such as Oakfest, cinema night and the discos. We know how much the whole school community value the opportunities that the PTA provide for social events as well as the incredible job they do fundraising for the school. These funds support a fabulous range of resources and activities for all children at Oakwood. We're so lucky to have such a committed team of parents and carers making a highly valued contribution to the school and we're looking forward to working with you again in the next school year!

Parent questionnaire feedback

Parents clearly value many different things about Oakwood and our school community. The PTA were delighted to appear in many comments from school's recent Parent Questionnaire - we'd love to share a few of the comments with you here:

"We value the efforts by the PTA to provide experiences and resources for the school."

"The PTA make a lot of effort to help raise money."

"School community- lots of wider activities going on for children and parents to get involved in." (Oakwood Olympics)



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Oakfest
sponsors



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the funds
are spent



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HAVE A QUESTION, SUGGESTION OR JUST WANT TO GET IN TOUCH?

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Please 'like' our Facebook page www.facebook.com/OakwoodPrimarySchoolPtaStAlbans and follow us on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/oakwood_pta/



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OAKWOOD PTA



What have we spent the money on?

Here's what all the money you've raised at our events has been spent on so far this year.



POT 1
50%

Central School Fund

Ms Buckley uses this pot to spend on items she feels will enhance the school.



POT 2
25%

Termly ad-hoc Fund

Split into 3 pots, one for each term.



POT 3
25%

PTA Fund

This pot is used to fund projects that the PTA feels passionately about. The committee and attendees discuss and decide upon how this will be spent in our regular meetings.

OPAL Scheme

Outdoor Play and Learning

£5,000

MUGA

Multi Use Games Arena

£3,455

Annual regular contributions:

Trips and workshops

£2,625

Classroom donations

£825

Lend a Hand/Gardening

Up to £750

School Council bid

Up to £250

Year 6 leavers fund

£1,050

Acorns Welcome

£50

Christmas Contribution

(Tree, online panto, crackers)

£200

Autumn Term:

Diverse Books
for UKS2 **£600**

E-safety books
for whole school **£200**

Giant Maths Strings
for whole school **£185**

Reading Corner furnishings
for Beech class **£140**

Spring Term:

Playtime resources
for EYFS/KS1 **£415**

Newspaper subscriptions
for LKS2 **£32**

STEM Merry Go Round project
for UKS2 **£520**

Protective Behaviours Books
for whole school **£72**

Inclusive Books
for LKS2 **£720**

Summer Term:

Widgit Online - 3 yrs
for whole school **£664**

Play Sand
for whole school **£150**

Flower/Veg Beds
for KS2 **£572**

Resilience Workshop

for UKS2

£538

Libraries Refresh
for KS1 & KS2
£2,300

Flower/Veg Beds
for KS2
£1,300

Who can apply for Pot 2?

ANYONE! (teachers, parents, children) can apply for funds from this pot by submitting a **PTA Funding Request Form**.

We welcome and encourage requests from all areas of the school community. Requests can be submitted at any time but we vote once per term on the requests received. This is usually around each half term.

How do I get a PTA Funding Request Form?

Send an email to oakwoodptachair@gmail.com to request a form. This is also the email address that your completed form should be submitted to. You can also find the form in the files section of the PTA Events page.

www.pta-events.co.uk/oakwoodpta/

