



Ottershaw
Parent Teacher
Association
Enriching the lives of our children



AUTUMN TERM 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! We cannot believe that the new OPTA team have been in place for a year now... What a year it has been. A huge thank you to all of the parents and staff that have supported us and helped us raise over £20,000 last year, which is an amazing achievement! We recently had our AGM and we were so pleased to see class reps and others coming along with questions and to hear our reports. You will be pleased to know that the school has requested funding for a new climbing frame to be installed at the Juniors and a new Trim Trail to be installed at the Infants later in 2019 - which means that the money raised is definitely being put to good use.

Unbelievably it is already only a few weeks until our Fireworks on 6th November and we pretty sure that the Christmas fair will be here before you know it. Luckily plans for both Fireworks and the Christmas fair are well underway – we are having a Christmas fair planning meeting with the Class Reps on Monday 14th October at the Cricketers at 7.45. Even if you aren't a Class Rep but would like to provide some ideas for the Christmas Fair then please do pop along.

Fireworks tickets are on sale now - if you need another form for them then please do get one from either school office. We are really looking forward to another fabulous display from Dragon Fireworks!

Our next Bags2School collection is on Thursday 24th October and the gate to the Junior school will be open until 9pm on Wednesday 23rd if you wish to leave bags there before the morning rush. This is a great fundraiser as we are paid by Bags2School based on the weight of the bags so the more we collect the more money we make. It doesn't just have to be clothes – please see below for what can be included. Similarly it doesn't have to be in a Bag2School bag – bin bags are perfectly acceptable. If you have any school uniform to be donated then please leave that with the school office as we are going to be having a second hand uniform sale on Friday 18th at 2.45pm in the Infant School.

Again we make our regular plea out to all parents who work for companies with a charity or Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budget. Many companies throughout the UK offer employees the chance to boost their fundraising efforts by matching the money they raise. It really is money for nothing and it could mean that we double the amount of money we raise at each event. Please find attached more details on this – we would really love to hear from you! In addition if any parent works for a company that could provide any raffle prizes or sponsorship for events please let us know as soon as possible.

Finally, you can also really help the OPTA whilst doing your Christmas shopping! We are registered with 'Amazon Smile' and 'Easyfundraising' who will donate a percentage of your online shopping payments to OPTA – it's quick and easy to set up and will really help us raise even more funds for our schools! Last year we raised £375 through these channels – but we are sure, with your help, we could raise more. Please see details attached on how to set these up.

Diary dates ... *more details to follow:*

- Friday 18th October (2.45pm) – Uniform sale at Infants
- Thursday 24th October – Bags2School collection
- Wednesday 6th November – Fireworks
- Saturday 7th December – Christmas Fair
- Wednesday 11th December – Aladdin Panto at Woking

Thank you!
OPTA Team

CAN BE INCLUDED:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes
- Handbags
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers)

Bags2School

- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie

NOT accepted:

- Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (inc bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material



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*Please remember OPTA when you are
Christmas Shopping*



Easyfundraising Website

Raise money for OPTA whilst you shop!

You can buy goods through E-bay, Amazon, M&S, Argos, Major Travel Agents and thousands more retailers.

Every time you buy online the OPTA gets cash back and it costs nothing extra for you. So start raising funds today!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Support the cause – 'Ottershaw Parent Teacher & Friends Association'

You can download an App to use on your smart phone or a web browser extension to remind you which websites are eligible.

Amazon Smile

Anytime you shop with Amazon you could be raising funds for OPTA. For the donation to be triggered you must visit smile.amazon.co.uk and designate **Ottershaw Parent Teachers Association** as your charity.

You can't currently use Smile on the Amazon app, so the easiest thing to do is to save the Amazon Smile check out page as a bookmark on your homescreen. Then you can use the app as normal. Once you're ready to check out just open the bookmark, where your Amazon basket will be waiting.

How to put Amazon Smile on your homescreen

Visit smile.amazon.com in your browser.

Next, hit the share button at the bottom middle of your screen.

Now click add to Home Screen and call it what you want. You have just created a shortcut to the Amazon Smile page to easily navigate here from your device.



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MATCH FUNDING

Dear Parents / Carers,

You will hopefully be aware of the fantastic work OPTA have been doing to raise funds for our school. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about the Match Funding scheme and how a little bit of your time could raise double the funds for the PTA.

If you work for an organisation that has a match funding policy, any money you raise could be matched by your employer. Companies may match the fundraising total for an event, or for the stall that their employee is working on. Usually, the employee will need to supply them with a letter from the PTA detailing the date and nature of the event, together with the total raised and we can obviously provide that to you.

We understand that the high street banks, building societies, supermarkets and large corporations are most likely to do match funding, but these schemes are not exclusive to the major corporate giants. If you work for an independent company, they may be interested in charitable giving through match funding too.

We would be grateful if you could see if your employer has a match funding scheme, or if they are willing to match fund any of our events. If you can't help out this time, but you know the company you work for has a match funding policy, please let us know. This could be a really large source of income for the PTA and help us to continue to raise money for our schools.

If you are able to help us this way, please let Abi Knight (Treasurer) know and we can discuss your companies' requirements.

Thank you for your support.

Helen, Kira, Aruna, Laura and Abi

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Ottershaw CofE Infant & Juniors PTA