



# Friends of Busbridge Church of England Junior School

Summer Newsletter - July 2020

Hello and welcome to the Friends Summer newsletter for 2020, the last of the year.

Though we haven't been able to meet up in person recently, the PTA has continued to function remotely during lockdown, and while we are disappointed that there will be no summer BBQ this year to round off the year, we hope there will be more opportunities for social gatherings in the next academic year.

Although the unprecedented events of the last few months have required us to cancel a lot of our planned fundraising activities, we wanted to give you an update before the end of the school year to show you where we have been able to support the school. The big news is that when the children return in September, they will have some fantastic new IT equipment. This is due to everyone's hard work raising extra funds for the school – thank you so much for your help!

More good news is that the current PTA committee members (both Co-chairs, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary) are all staying on for another year, so we can hit the ground running next year. We do, however, need class reps (ideally two per class) and if this is something you'd be interested in taking on, please do let us know. We cannot stress enough how important your support is both to the school and to the experiences we are able to offer the children, and we cannot run the year's events and activities without your help.

## This year's fundraising so far

We have made a profit of around £7,500 this academic year, which is amazing. Thank you so much for helping us achieve this. The profit earned from each activity is shown below:

- Sponsored bounce - £500 to date – our latest lockdown fundraiser
- Smarties Challenge - £570 – a new fundraising event which proved successful
- Fireworks - £2,085
- Christmas Fayre - £4,050 – record breaking profit!
- Christmas Cards – £354
- Easyfundraising - £274
- Stikins Labels - £109
- Second hand uniform - £107

Last year we raised over £13,000 but we knew the same wouldn't be possible this year since we had to cancel a number of events including Bouncing for Books, the Summer BBQ and the Quiz, which usually make a profit of around £5,500.



## This year's expenditure

We have been able to contribute over £11,000 to IT upgrades, in addition to the ongoing investment in books and technology licences:

- Chromebooks & ICT suite upgrade - £11,500 (more info below)
- Technology licences and subscriptions - £3,070
- Books - £800
- Hardship fund - £570

So yes, we have spent more than we earned but that's because we had over £9,000 in the bank at the start of the year and we wanted to ensure the funds were spent on something the school really needs.

### *New IT equipment*

To bring the school's IT provision up to date and make it more accessible, we have this year donated £11,500 to fund the purchase of 20 new Chromebooks, and a new Clevertouch screen and PCs for the ICT suite. We have also committed to directing a further £2,500 to IT next year (as the total cost of this investment exceeded what we were able to provide this year, but it made sense to do the whole upgrade at once over the summer break).

The new equipment will make a huge difference to the teaching and learning in Computing at BJS. The Chromebooks will plug a gap in provision and enable the children to apply ICT to many areas of school life and learning. These resources will be in place in September and we hope the children enjoy using them.

### *The wish list*

Next year we will be asking you what you would like to see the PTA investing in (look out for our short survey in September). We

hope that if we are permitted to conduct events such as the Fireworks and the Christmas Fayre, we will be able to fund areas such as:

- Outstanding balance of ICT suite upgrade - £2,500
- Replacement of raised beds in garden area
- More art-based activities in school e.g. workshops
- Long term project - possibly changing a large part of the field with a multi-use games area (MUGA). It is likely to cost a significant amount so much consideration and investigation will be taken in advance of any decision made.

If you have any suggestions on what our fundraising efforts should also go towards then please do email [bjschair@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:bjschair@busbridge-junior.surrey.sch.uk), we would love to hear from you.

## Dates for your diaries

Given the current circumstances, we do not know whether we can hold events next term. We will of course keep you updated. In the meantime, please note that provisional events and dates are as follows:

- New parents coffee morning – Friday 11 September – Provisional date only
- Friends AGM – date TBC
- Fireworks Spectacular – Thursday 5 November, subject to Government guidance
- Christmas Fayre – date TBC, subject to Government guidance
- Quiz night – date TBC as the May event was cancelled
- Disco – date TBC as the March event was cancelled.



## Additional ways you can help us:

### Easy Fundraising

Just a reminder that whenever you buy anything online you could be collecting free donations for the Friends of Busbridge Junior School via Easy Fundraising. It doesn't cost a penny extra and there is no catch – it's free money for the school.

It includes a number of well-known retailers like John Lewis, Tesco, Sainsburys, M&S, Ticketmaster, Tui, Ebay, Curry's, Boden etc....

Here's how it works:

1. Visit

<https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/busbridgept/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever. Easy!

It's a ridiculously easy way to raise funds for the school so please take a few minutes and sign up.

### AmazonSmile

If you shop online via Amazon, visit [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) for the exact same shopping experience but with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of

the purchase price to Busbridge Junior School PTA each time you shop.

Simply:

Go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) on your computer or mobile device

On your first visit you need to select Busbridge Junior School PTA as your chosen charitable organisation to receive donations.

Go to Your Account > Your Amazon Smile > Change your Charity

Visiting [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) via Easyfundraising will also gain additional donations at no extra cost to you!

### Stikins Name Labels

We have teamed up with [www.stikins.co.uk](https://www.stikins.co.uk) to offer parents the opportunity to purchase labels for your children's school uniform, whilst earning the school 30% commission! These labels are a great idea, they simply stick onto the clothing wash label. These labels are so easy and permanent. They can even be used in shoes!

How it works:

Place an order quoting the school reference number (3307). If you use the link on our school website's Home Page/For Parents/Uniform to order your labels online, the number is filled in automatically for you!

Thank you for reading.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you in September!

## Committee Members

Co-Chair: Sarah Speirs/Jackie Ahrens  
Vice-Chair: Lorraine Collins  
Treasurer: Steve Muir  
Secretary: Katherine Carter  
Uniform: Beckie Whiteman

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