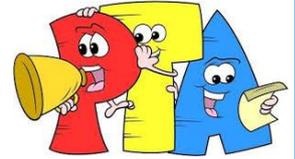


PTA NEWSLETTER



Hello,

So here it is – 2021 and already it's making its mark! As we all get used to another Lockdown and what that means for our families with Home Schooling, exercising once a day within bubbles and staying at home wherever possible, the efforts to continue to raise funds for and support our school continue, although virtually.

Last week, the PTA held our Annual General Meeting, where we said thank you and goodbye to Niki Woodhouse and Hannah Farrell as co-chairs; and Liz Butcher as Treasurer. After 3 busy and successful years steering the PTA through numerous events that raised over £27,000(!), and with children now in year 6; they are hanging up their black sacks, tea towels, marker pens, raffle books, calculators and sweat bands and handing the batons onto a new group of eager individuals – us!

SO WHO ARE 'WE'?



We are Lindsay and Tom Dixon, mum and dad to Jack & Kit; Chloe Cripps, Abigail and Molly's mum; and Karen Buffett who is Freya's mum.

We are ably assisted by an amazing team of people on the committee, not least the PTA Secretary, Paula Pereira (Savannah's mum) and Co-Treasurers, Laura Sawyer (mum to Jessie); Eugene Pereira (Savannah's dad) and Emma Taylor (mum to Lucas). There's also a small core team of parents and teachers who are all passionate about the school and in raising funds to get resources and opportunities for our children. Too many to mention here but without them, nothing would ever be achievable. Thank you.

We're all keen to work hard for the school to raise as much money as we can, to help provide our children with facilities and resources that they may not have access to without the generosity of everyone who supports the PTA events.

WHY DO THE PTA RAISE MONEY AND WHERE DOES IT GO?

Yes, the school receives funding from the Government to help it deliver the curriculum to our children. And our teachers are the school's greatest asset and do an amazing job; getting creative with the resources they have, to ensure our children receive an amazing education in a stimulating environment. However, the PTA helps to enrich that experience, through the money it raises, allowing the school, teachers and children access to so much more. In addition, the events we run are fun and rewarding, and the children love getting involved.



Recently, the money raised has, amongst other things, bought 32 new laptops; helped complete a Sensory Garden; bought plants and gardening tools for the children's use; funded microscopes with digital cameras; paid for geography equipment; allowed walk ways to be paved to enable areas to be accessed year round; funded outdoor play and sports equipment; paid for the Bloodhound SSC Engineering Project to deliver STEM workshops to each year group, bought benches & gazebos and paid for keyboards and additional classroom equipment!

SO WHAT'S NEXT?

As well as on-going classroom requirements, and purchasing subject-specific equipment, we are also raising money to help fund an **Astroturf track** at the back of the school, that will provide an all-weather surface for the children's Daily Mile and other activities.

However, we also believe that it's our job to bring the school community together and HAVE FUN and we do this through an extraordinary variety of events, such as school discos, parents' discos, film nights, Christmas and Summer Fairs, quiz nights, sponsored events, Christmas gifts, Break the Rule days and so much more.

COMING UP...

We have some amazing events organised for both mums, dads and carers and the children. It's been a tough last 10 months, so we really hope that you will join us and take part, to help lift your spirits and have some fun.

School Disco - this amazing online event (yes! It really is possible to do), will take place for the children in the last week of term. It will be a great way to celebrate the end of 6 weeks of hard work and to let off a bit of steam! So get your glad rags on, your disco balls out and polished and your glitter and face paints ready - it's time to party! Tickets will be on sale through Claslist and details will be coming to you soon.



Woodside's Activity Challenge – we're all being encouraged to exercise every day, but the winter months don't always give us the motivation. We'll give you some ideas to challenge yourselves and your family for the last fortnight of February! You can get sponsorship for your efforts, and we'll give everyone a link to our fundraising page for you to send onto your family and friends. Or, if you'd prefer, you can make a one-off donation. Participation is free and everyone who takes part will receive a certificate and maybe a shout out in the newsletter or on the Woodside Twitter page.



Quiz Night – this had been planned for February, before we were launched into another Lockdown. This will still be taking place, after the Half Term holiday, and we're making arrangements for a virtual quiz, in case we're all required to stay at home a little longer. Watch this space...



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

As you know, every parent automatically becomes a member of the PTA, as soon as their child joins the school. Though there is never any pressure to join the meetings, everyone is welcome to attend whenever they occur. However, anyone's assistance in events is actively encouraged and people can contribute in so many ways.

The best way to make events successful, however, is to join in – please come along, join in and have fun!



Volunteer - We always need people: from helping on stalls; setting up/clearing down; face painting; finding volunteers for events; designing leaflets; wrapping presents; selling tickets; dropping things off at school; checking stock and so on. Any amount of time you can give, is always welcomed.

Class Rep - You may be interested in becoming a Class Rep. If so, we'd love to hear from you. This is a great way to make sure that all parents and carers within a class are aware of events coming up and in finding volunteers to help.

If you can give up any of your time, please let us know by emailing us at woodsideschool08@gogglemail.com or contact any of the chairs through Classlist.

Donations - Maybe you're someone who's happier baking cakes and biscuits; donating gifts and tombola prizes; arranging for your company to give a raffle prize; organising a sponsored event and donating the money to the PTA; buying raffle tickets; or maybe you'd just like to give a donation. We'll be setting up a Just Giving fundraising page soon,



where you can do just that – so look out for this information, coming soon.

Match Funding - If you are a working parent, you could ask your employer if they will 'match fund' any amount of money the PTA raises for the school, from a specific event we hold. This would allow us to double the money we raise, every time an employer does this – which will further enrich your child's experience at school.

There are also several other easy ways we can all help increase our donations to the school, from the comfort of our own homes and often, without costing us a penny.

The Woodside Voucher Scheme: This currently raises around £750 per year and it doesn't cost you anything!

Simply buy vouchers from the scheme and use them to pay for your shopping. The participating stores donate 4% back to the school. You can make one-off orders or set up a monthly standing order. You can buy vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's for in store use only, and M&S and Waitrose/John Lewis, who accept the vouchers instore and online.



Email woodside.voucher@gmail.com or message Woodside Voucher Scheme on Classlist, with the following information:

- Card(s) required, e.g. M&S, Tesco, Sainsbury's or Waitrose/John Lewis
- The amount you want to add

You'll then be advised to either make a one-off payment or you can set up a standing order for a regular amount; then start shopping!

School Lottery: This raises approximately £800 per year and you can join from just £1 per week. 40% of sales comes back to the school and there are guaranteed winners every week as well as the chance to win £25,000!



To start supporting, visit: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for: **Woodside Junior School**

Amazon Smile: Who hasn't bought something from Amazon? If you go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk (and pin it to your browser), you could be helping to raise 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT) of your eligible goods, for the school, every time you shop!

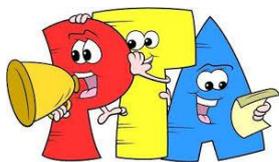


All you need to do is register "The Woodside Association" as your chosen charity to donate to. It's that simple.

If you've used any of these schemes before at another school, don't forget to switch across to the Woodside schemes to make sure the money donated by your account(s) goes towards helping your child here.

We're all really looking forward to coming up with some amazing events, generating lots of cash to spend on our children and having a lot of fun along the way. We hope you'll join us on this journey! And we'd love to hear from anyone who has any ideas how we can raise money or what events we could organise. Contact any of us through email at woodsideschool08@googlemail.com or through Classlist.

Best wishes,



Lindsay, Tom, Chloe, Karen
PTA Co-Chairs