

4th September

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. The Parent School Association (PSA) includes all parents, grandparents and carers of pupils at the school. We aim to raise funds to support the school in various ways and improve the bond between home and school life. Our last PSA meeting we had many ideas and plans for the second half of the year that were sadly cancelled. There were funds committed for what was seen at the time to be urgent but now with all the Covid-19 issues have had to take a backseat. We are significantly behind our normal targets because of lockdown but we hope to regroup and move forward however we can to continue our fundraising efforts.

Next Meeting:

We are tentatively planning our next PSA meeting to be on 23rd September, 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom. The school office is swamped since the return of children and this date and time may change so please look for updates in weeks to come. A small part of this meeting will be the AGM to review our previous year's events and successes. The majority of the meeting will be discussing future fundraising ideas and events that are still possible given all the changes. All decisions in the PSA are voted for by those who attend meetings. It is really important to join us if you want to know what the plans will be moving forward and how you can get involved. We need ideas! For the foreseeable future we will not be able to host events on the school grounds. Sadly we will not be hosting a Cinema Night or possibly the Christmas Fayre this year. Instead we are looking for practical, safe, fun, and profitable ideas that can be put forward at the meeting. If you have an idea please email us at hawridgepsa@hotmail.com. The PSA committee (chair, secretary and treasurer) will look through these and present the most viable ideas at the meeting. Please don't be offended if your idea isn't chosen. There are a lot of restrictions we are navigating around and we need to focus on the most cost-effective ones.

Committee Changes:

As mentioned above the PSA committee consists of 3 positions. Each position is expected to serve a minimum of 1 year with a maximum of 3 years. While I was hoping to continue through my last year of this commitment, due to an unexpected change of circumstances I've had to make the difficult decision to step down as Chair. The position ideally needs to be filled at the next meeting. Attached is a document that outlines what the roles involves. It is voluntary and very rewarding. No experience is necessary and most committee members lead busy lives and can fit in meetings around work hours. If anyone is interested please come and speak to me. I plan to help this whole year with the handover so you won't be alone. To keep in line with how the charity is run we will need to vote to elect the new chair. I have loved every minute of leading such an amazing group and will be sad to not be the head cheerleader.

Communication:

The PSA have a Facebook group that we encourage all parents to join (Hawridge & Cholesbury School Facebook Group). There are regular posts that can be useful and a good way to communicate across all year groups. We also have in place a Class Rep for each year group. It is up to each class to choose how they keep in touch. A closed Facebook group tends to be the preferred way but some classes choose WhatsApp or Email. These are optional and have nothing to do with the school office so it is up to you to share your contact details with your class if you so wish. There will be many times during the year that Mrs Phillips shares important information via the Class Reps so you need to know who they are and they need to know how to contact you. A full class list with children's names, parent's names, phone numbers and emails is very useful. These lists are NOT meant to be used for personal business purposes or shared. It helps a lot for birthday invites to have a full class list even if you don't want to share all your data.

Hawridge & Cholesbury CE School Parent School Association
Registered Charity no. 282120

Feedback:

Over the next few weeks there will be some polls set up on the Facebook page to gauge how the Hawridge & Cholesbury community would like to approach fundraising this year. It will help the committee tune into the overall feel of where we should invest our time and resources. I will ask Class Reps to alert anyone who is not a Facebook member so they don't miss out.

We have a blank canvas in front of us this year with lots of possibilities. Let's work together to achieve great things and have fun doing it.

Lauren Cansdale
PSA Chair

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