



Friends of Halsford Park

July 2021 Newsletter



Friends of Halsford
Park School



halsfordfriends

Email: halsford.pta@gmail.com Web: www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhalsfordpark

Wow, What a Year!

Last September, it was hard to feel optimistic about the potential for fundraising and events in 2020/21. With so much uncertainty and the threat of a second wave, our capacity to adapt to the challenges of socially distanced fundraising was truly tested. However, we were determined to still make it a year to remember for all the right reasons; funding equipment and resources for the school and providing amazing opportunities for the children.

At the start of the school year, our fundraising target was £15,000. At the time of writing, we have achieved an astounding

£19,845

In addition to this, we have secured grants worth £24,243. These grants have enabled us to fund books for KS2, laptops and SEN equipment, a rainwater harvesting system for the polytunnel, and have contributed to the installation of the Elemental Arena and the ongoing playground improvement project.

For more detail of what we have raised, how we raised it, and what it has been spent on by the school, check out the last page of this newsletter.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our efforts this year, it is very much appreciated. We hope to see you for real next year!

Trails and Tribulations

Thanks to Covid-19, 2020/21 has been the year of the trail. We sought out pumpkins, searched for a pesky elf and hunted for rabbits - but that's not all!

Non-uniform days had a dash of difference, a festive twist and got sporty.

Rather than our traditional Christmas fair, we sold wooden snowmen, reindeer and a host of other handmade items and gifts at our online Christmas Market. Our Christmas raffle and silent auction went online as well, and we delivered some festive magic to the children in the form of letters from Santa.

Our second virtual balloon race took to the skies from Paris, and made for an exciting February half term, tracking the balloons across the English Channel and onwards towards Scandinavia.

More recently, we challenged our school community to complete a 5k in May challenge and gain sponsorship for doing it. 46 participants completed their running, walking, scooting, cycling or football-kicking, and were awarded with a special medal.

Also in May, the children were given sunflowers to plant. We look forward to seeing how well they grow!

As well as a time of change, this year has been a time of reflection too. Our photo exhibition encouraged the children to provide images illustrating their experience of lockdown. The photos were made into a video presentation (still available at https://youtu.be/S_N8HXoN23k) and used as a discussion point in school.



The Great Outdoors

With the schools' continued drive to promote outdoor learning for all year groups, we have been tackling the garden and poly-tunnel areas with renewed energy this year.

One of the grants we obtained was for a rainwater harvesting system for the polytunnel, so this has been fitted, and the beds planted with flower bulbs and vegetable seeds. We have recently harvested a great deal of onions, garlic and kale, as well as potatoes, peas and beans!

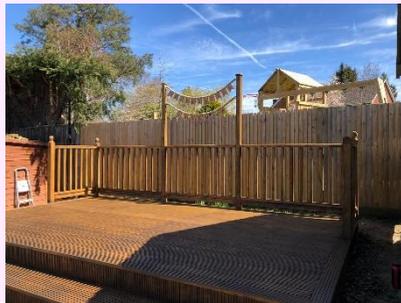


As well as working in the polytunnel, a regular 'gardening club' of PTA committee members and other volunteers has been working on the flower beds, attempting to keep them well tended.

Our volunteers have been working on the outdoor learning areas too, supplementing the existing resources with mud kitchens, upcycled tables and stools, a water wall, and other equipment. This was made possible thanks to a monetary donation from The Star, Lingfield.

Away from the outdoor learning areas, our main fundraising focus this year has been on playground improvements. After the installation of the Elemental Arena, we have embarked on an ambitious playground improvement project, details of which can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/PlaygroundImprovementPlan>.

Thanks to grants from East Grinstead Memorial Estate and Southover Manor Trust, as well as funds raised at the Sporty Non-Uniform Day, work on phase 1 will be able to commence in October 2021.



Ways to Help the PTA

Even in the summer break, you can still help the PTA! Check out our webpage which gives you some examples of how you can support us all year round:

<https://tinyurl.com/SupportHPPTA>

Party at the Park & AGM: 18 September 2021

As promised, we have rearranged our outdoor summer festival event, for Saturday 18 September from 12 to 4pm. The format will be slightly different to that originally planned, as sunset is earlier in September. Rest assured, however, we will still have magic, music, food, circus skills and more. With the move to earlier in the day, we are rebranding our 'picnic' to a 'party' with discos for KS1 and KS2-age children, music from 'A Bag Full of Hats', and more food options available to buy for lunch (or later in the afternoon). Further details of the event and booking information will be on our website and contained in a separate letter, coming soon.

As our AGM is due in September/October, we will be holding it at the end of the event, at 4pm. The AGM is open to everyone connected to the school, and is an opportunity to hear more about what we have achieved over the last year. We will also be voting in our new committee for 2021/22. Nomination forms will be circulated the first week back after the summer holidays, so if you are interested in standing for a committee role, make sure you fill one in. The majority of our current committee are hoping to remain in post next year, but new members are always welcome! Each year group has a year rep, so we will be looking for a parent or carer from the new Early Years cohort to fill this role.

Secondhand Uniform & Team T-Shirts

As the end of term draws near, chances are you have some old uniform you know your child will no longer need in September. If it is in good condition, we would be very happy to take it off your hands so it can be re-sold for funds or upcycled. We accept any purple branded jumpers/cardigans/coats as well as purple summer dresses. We would also be happy to take plain T-shirts in the team colours (red, yellow, blue and green) to lend out at Sports' Day.

Collection boxes will be on the school driveway at drop off and pick up on Thursday 22 July. If you wish to donate over the summer, please email halsford.pta@gmail.com.

Want to Have Your Say?

It may be the summer holidays, but we're still busy planning for next year, with the rescheduled summer festival being top of the agenda. So, if there's something you would particularly like to be involved with, or you have ideas for fundraising or events, please do get in touch. You can find us on Facebook at 'Friends of Halsford Park School', or you can contact us by email on halsford.pta@gmail.com



FRIENDS OF HALSFORD PARK SCHOOL

RAISED £44,089 IN 2020/2021!

