



# Friends of Halsford Park

## October 2021 Newsletter

Email: [halsford.pta@gmail.com](mailto:halsford.pta@gmail.com) Web: [www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhalsfordpark](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhalsfordpark)



### Welcome

We've made it through another crazy year! Relative normality has been punctuated by lockdowns, periods of isolation and home learning, and it's been a challenge for us all.

Being unable to run large-scale events for the children or families has been really hard for us as a PTA. To finally be able to put on a festival for the whole school community, in the form of the Party at the Park (see right) was such a delight.

In our July newsletter we summarised how our funds were raised last year, with the majority coming from our Christmas online market, the sale of handmade items, Christmas and summer raffles, 5k in May, trails, non-uniform days, the 200 Club, the sale of secondhand uniform, sponsorship and advertising. Despite not being able to run our regular fundraisers, we raised a total of...

# £22,426.58

This was given a huge boost by us successfully obtaining £28,878.83 in grants! See page 3 for information on how we decide where the money goes.

Due to ongoing concerns about Covid and the need to help minimise the spread of the virus, we are still unable to run events inside the Halsford Park building outside school hours. We are having to plan our fundraising creatively, and a term at a time, so we don't get caught out by changes in restrictions. Rest assured, however, we are still determined to make 2021/22 another fun and fruitful year!

### Party at the Park (slightly delayed) Summer Festival

Having been forced to delay our summer festival when restrictions weren't eased as soon as hoped in July, we were anxious things would work out second time around. We weren't disappointed, however, as the sun shone and the Party at the Park went ahead without a hitch.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event by coming along on the day, booking circus skills or magic shows, buying raffle tickets, or donating cakes. Huge thanks to everyone who volunteered, (events such as this genuinely cannot happen without you) and our sponsors; Mansell McTaggart, The Star Lingfield, EG Repairs, Stones Family Butchers, Waitrose, New Balance and Vintage Flair.

Thanks as well to everyone who completed our feedback survey. We had 88 responses and lots of interesting and useful comments. Overall the event was given an average rating of 4.2 out of 5, and we were delighted to see so many members of our school community relaxing, enjoying the music and having fun on the day – that's what we wanted to achieve.

As well as all that, we are proud to announce, the event raised a fantastic £4,525.53 towards the ongoing playground improvements.



### Textile Recycling

Don't forget, we have a textile recycling bank under the bikesheds, permanently available for donations of; reusable clothing, paired shoes, accessories, bed linen, towels and sleeping bags. When donating, please do not include school or work uniforms with logos, damaged or stained items, unpaired items, curtains, cushion covers, blankets or toys. We will receive 30p/kilo for items that are donated.

If the bank is full when you visit, please take your donations back home with you, and let us know via Facebook or email, so we can get it emptied as soon as possible.



## Who Are We?

We are the committee of the Friends of Halsford Park School (usually known as 'the PTA'), an organisation whose purpose is to support and enhance the education of the children at Halsford Park. At the end of the Party at the Park on 18 September, we held our AGM, to review our achievements from 2020/21, update our constitution and vote in the members of the 2021/22 committee.

The PTA is headed up by our Trustees who take on the roles of Chair/Co-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and Mrs Spencer, our President. In addition, on our committee, we have Year Reps who each represent a year group, and members who fulfil a number of other roles (see below). There are teachers on the PTA too. The staff representatives on our committee are currently Mrs Bonnett, Mrs Gibbons and Miss Loftus.

We meet roughly once a month either face to face or on Zoom. As all parents and carers connected to Halsford Park are automatically part of the PTA, you are all welcome to attend our meetings. For details of when and where we are next getting together, contact us at [halsford.pta@gmail.com](mailto:halsford.pta@gmail.com).

**Our committee (L to R):** Lucy Carey – Year 1 & 4 Rep and Social Media Coordinator; Sally Cooper – Vice Chair; Sarah Everson – Secretary; Penny Duly – Year 2 Rep and Secondhand Uniform Coordinator; Claire Winslade – Co-Chair; Rebecca Smith – Co-Chair; Mrs Spencer – President; Emily Brooks – Treasurer; Lucy Hall – Year 3 Rep; Miss Loftus – Staff Rep; Brad Silby and Emma Ewing – Designers; Lisa Harris – Vice-Treasurer; Kate Fennell – Fundraiser (Grants); Emily Stevens – Committee Member. Not photographed: Kizzy Stoner – Year 5 & 6 Rep; Amy Williams – EY Rep & Tuckshop Coordinator; Jessica Courtney & Tricia Lindsey – Committee Members.



## Secondhand Uniform

At our AGM, Penny Duly (Y2 parent) was voted in as our new Secondhand Uniform Coordinator, taking over from Jacque Cullen. Jacque is owed a big 'thank you' for doing such a great job over the past few years.

Penny is busy setting up a uniform shop on our PTA Events website, which is due to launch in early November, here: <https://tinyurl.com/HPUniform>. Any secondhand purple uniform we have in stock will be available to purchase from the website and will be ready to collect at tuckshop after school on a Friday (orders must be received by 10pm on a Thursday for collection that week).

In the meantime, or if you are unable to use the website, you can obtain secondhand uniform by contacting Penny directly, via our Facebook group or the PTA email address.

Donations of good condition secondhand uniform, for resale or upcycling, are always gratefully received. We will be putting a collection bin for donations next to the textile recycling bank, items can be brought to tuckshop on a Friday or delivered, by arrangement, to Penny.



Don't forget, this Friday is the last day of half term. The children are invited to come to school wearing something spooky, ghostly or fantastical, or just their own clothes if they prefer. In exchange, we are collecting donations of new, unopened foodstuffs or drink for Christmas hampers.

Also, after school, we will have individual original glazed Krispy Kreme doughnuts for sale for £1 each, as well as pre-ordered trays of a dozen available for collection.



**FANCY DRESS FRIDAY**  
OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

WE WOULD APPRECIATE A VOLUNTARY DONATION OF LONG DATED XMAS HAMPER GOODIES!

SUGGESTIONS INCLUDE:

XMAS PUDDING/CAKE CHOCOLATES BISCUITS WINE  
COFFEES & TEAS MINCE PIES

**THANK YOU!**

IF YOUR CHILD HAS P.E. OR OUTDOOR LEARNING THAT DAY PLEASE ENSURE THEY WEAR A SUITABLE COSTUME!

Friends of Halsford Park School

PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISING

## How Do We Decide What to Fund?

As a registered charity, we have to give careful consideration to how we spend our funds. We make sure our expenditure is carefully accounted for, is in accordance with our constitution, is of benefit to the children and is good value for money. Having worked so hard to raise the money, the last thing we want to do is squander it!

As the PTA is run by volunteers and has no premises of its own, we have very low overheads. We do spend a small amount of the money we raise on Parentkind membership (which includes our public liability insurance), our website (the cost of which is offset as far as possible with advertising revenue), a small lottery licence (to allow us to run raffles) and the occasional purchase of equipment or storage containers.

We have a committed spend which is made up of our annual spending obligations. This is reviewed each year, and currently includes Bug Club and Twinkl licences, £300 per year group for curriculum enhancement, sports day lollies, Easter eggs, funding for Mother's Day and Father's Day crafts, SATs books for Y6 and a contribution towards first aid training for years 2, 4 and 6.

We work closely with the school to decide how our remaining funds are spent to best benefit the children of Halsford Park. To this end, we have a staff representative at most of our meetings, and 'funding requests from school' is a recurring item on our meeting agendas.

Last year, the school's main priorities were the purchase of laptops, SEN equipment and reading books, currently the focus is playground improvements. Where we can, we apply for grants to fund what is requested. Some larger items are funded solely from grants, others are topped up with our general funds. As well as long-term funding priorities, smaller items are requested from time to time. For example, at our last meeting, we agreed to pay for nine Lego sets and associated equipment for Lego therapy sessions.

We aren't just led by school in what we fund. As a committee we often suggest items or experiences we would like to provide for the children, and if the school agree these will be beneficial, we go ahead. For example, last Christmas's virtual pantomime and the sunflower growing kits distributed last term were both ideas put forward by our committee that were agreed and funded.

## Festive Fundraising

Even without the traditional Christmas fair, we still have plenty going on...

**Grotto Experience** – On the afternoon/evening of Saturday 4 December we will be holding a twilight grotto experience for the children and their families, on the KS1 playground. There will be the chance to meet Santa, or even the Grinch, and we will have a selection of games stalls, snacks and hot drinks. Booking details to follow.

**Letters from Santa** – Santa has new notepaper, and new messages for children of all ages. If you would like to order a personalised letter from the man in red, along with a small gift, orders will open on 1 November here: <https://tinyurl.com/SantaLetter21>.

**Advent Calendar Raffles** – We have not one, but two advent calendar raffles. For 50p a ticket you could win a fidget toy calendar. For £1 a ticket, there's a gin & tonic calendar available to win. Kizzy Stoner will be selling tickets on the playground, or they can be purchased from tuckshop from 5/11 until the draw date of 26/11.

**Raffle** – Our main Christmas raffle will be available online, with further details and some fantastic prizes due to be announced after half term!

**Rotary Santa** – Each Christmas we team up with the local Rotary Club to tour the streets of Halsford Park's catchment with Santa and his mobile musical Christmas tree. Volunteers will be needed for the evenings of 7 & 14 December for knocking on doors and collecting donations. If you can help, please email [halsford.pta@gmail.com](mailto:halsford.pta@gmail.com)

**Christmas Puddings** – We are teaming up with Freshfield Bakery to offer Halsford Park-branded Christmas puddings. We will have traditional four-serving puddings, made from a well-loved thirty-year-old recipe, or a sticky toffee alternative, available to order after half term.

**Wreath-making Workshop** – Come along to the Dorset Arms function room to make your own Christmas wreath at our workshop run by an experienced florist from Garden Room Crafts. Tickets are £35/person and all materials are provided. For more details and to book follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/WreathMaking21>



CASH PRIZE  
EVERY MONTH!

IT  
COULD BE YOU!!

LESS THAN 50p  
A WEEK!

WIN UP TO £100

and raise money for the children of  
Halsford Park School

by joining *Friends of Halsford Park*

CLUB

200

Club 200 is a prize draw that pays out up to £100 to a lucky winner each month, as well as benefitting the school.

Joining Club 200 costs £24 per year, or £2 per month. When you join, you are allocated a number. If your number is pulled out in the monthly draw, you win half of the prize pot, and the school 'wins' the other half. The more people who join Club 200, the bigger the potential winnings!

To sign up for Club 200, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/HPClub200>  
email [halsford.pta@gmail.com](mailto:halsford.pta@gmail.com) or speak to Claire Tennent (Y2 mum).  
Payments can be made annually by cheque or BACS, or you can spread your payments with a monthly standing order.

## Easy Ways to Help the PTA

Become an armchair fundraiser by signing up to any of the initiatives you see on this page. With Club 200 you are in with a chance of winning up to £100 each month, so it's well worth doing!

Christmas is on the horizon, so now more than ever, please sign up to Amazon Smile and Give as You Live Online or Easyfundraising, then the Christmas shopping you do online will raise funds for the school! It's quick and easy to set up and doesn't cost you a penny.

Thank you!

easyfundraising  
feel good shopping



## How to raise FREE donations for

Friends of Halsford Park

Use easyfundraising to shop  
It won't cost you anything extra.



1. Get started  
Join easyfundraising for free and support us
2. Start shopping  
Visit retailers then shop online as normal
3. Raise donations  
Your cause receives Free donation

Find us at:

[www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhalsfordpark](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofhalsfordpark)

Shop on mobile? Get our app



Generate FREE donations for us  
when you shop your  
favourite retailers online

[www.giveasyoulive.com/join/halsfordpta](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/halsfordpta)

Simply visit the above link to get started



amazon smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

By using Amazon Smile, and nominating The Friends of Halsford Park School as your chosen charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to the PTA every time you make a purchase. Not sure how? We have made a useful tutorial to show you! It costs you nothing, and once it's set up it looks after itself.

<https://youtu.be/BhMGwgxJ6-M>