

# Welcome to Holmes Chapel Primary School PTA

## HELLO!

This information has been put together by the PTA especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do at school, so why not get involved from the start!

## WHY DO WE HAVE A PTA?

We are fortunate to have a PTA that's an integral part of the school community. Since September we have raised just over £9,000 for our school before lockdown halted our fundraising, a fantastic achievement in such a short space of time. This money will be used to fund resources and experiences to enhance our children's education and the school's facilities.

PTA is about much more than simply fundraising. The PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school and is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school. It's also a great way for you as parents to gain extra insight into what is happening at school and the goals we are working towards.

## HOW WE RAISE MONEY

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. These include school discos every term and larger annual events such as the Christmas Fair. Other initiatives such as competitions and prize draws run throughout the year so keep an eye out on what comes home in your children's school bags!

## HOW WE SPEND THE MONEY WE RAISE

The PTA Committee are responsible for deciding how our PTA funds are spent. Usually the School Leadership Team provide a 'wish list' of items that the school would like us to consider funding. We also invite input from parents too, so if you have an idea of something that would benefit all the students in the school, please do share it with the Committee.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting.

Most recently this has included the installation of new stage lights and microphones in the school hall, new iPads for the classrooms, fun playground markings and leaving gifts for Year 6 students. Plans are currently underway for the PTA to fund the school's first pond and a brand new outdoor learning area.

## ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

Our PTA is led by a Committee of parents and teachers. This includes our current **Chair Clare Kozyra, Vice Chair Jenny Kozyra, Secretary Chantelle Griffiths and Treasurer Vicky Williams**, alongside numerous ordinary Committee members and Parent Helpers.

The Committee usually meets once a term. Smaller working groups meet as necessary when we are planning larger events. Our meetings are open to all. Any parent can come along, find out what we are planning, share ideas and get involved. Please don't be shy, they are very informal and usually include biscuits!

## GET INVOLVED

All parents are welcome to attend a PTA meeting at any time and/or get involved in organising and running our events. It would be great to see some new Reception parents joining the PTA this year and helping ensure your child's year is represented at future meetings.

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of Parent Helpers who commit some of their time to helping the PTA. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at event would be invaluable.

If you would like to join the Committee or volunteer as a Parent Helper please speak to a Committee member or email us at [hcps.pta@gmail.com](mailto:hcps.pta@gmail.com). There's no contract to sign and you only need to give as much time as you wish.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is normally held at the beginning of the Autumn term. This provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the funds we have raised over the past year and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new Committee members. Do please come along and meet your PTA.

## HOW WE KEEP YOU UP TO DATE

PTA updates are included in school newsletters sent home with the children. This provides information on upcoming events alongside details of the help we need to run them. Following an event, we always share how much money was raised.

PTA news is also shared on the school noticeboard which is situated on the main playground and via ParentMail.

If you have access to Facebook, please search and follow us: **Holmes Chapel Primary School PTA** for our latest updates and reminders of forthcoming events. During lockdown we have also used this page to share some fun learning activities you may find helpful in preparing your child for Reception.

Email [hcps.pta@gmail.com](mailto:hcps.pta@gmail.com) and join us today!

*We look forward to welcoming you and your children to our next PTA event.*



# HCPS PTA Newsletter

## April 2020

Welcome back to the Summer term. A start to a term like no other we've experienced but hopefully we are all getting into new routines and ensuring we are following Government guidelines to keep us safe.

The PTA had a quiet Spring term with just one event last term - the Spring Disco. However we did have an extremely busy Autumn Term running a number of events, including the Back to School Disco, Christmas Fair, Christmas Refreshments and Christmas Card sales. Not only that, we also created and sold PTA calendars for the first time in 10 years! Through your generous support of these events we have raised a massive £9041.72 since September. This is a fantastic achievement and all thanks to the wonderful parents and families that continue to support us.

The money raised will be used to finance a brand new outdoor learning area (including our very own pond) that will be hugely beneficial to our children and their educational experience. We are also funding the installation of fun, new playground markings.

The stage lighting and microphones in the school hall that the PTA funded are being used to great effect. The iPads that the PTA financed are also being used and look to be a great investment. We were also pleased to be able to fund the Year 6 leavers gifts. In the coming months, as well as the above, we look forward to being able to fund more fun, yet educational activities.

### Review of Spring Term Events

#### Disco

The Spring disco was very well attended making a profit of £1208.96. Following feedback regarding the queues from the last previous disco. We trialled a new fast track entry system which allowed children to buy a wristband in advance to avoid queueing. This seemed to work well - obviously we would welcome any opinions that you have. We continued with our attempts to reduce our plastic use by using washable cups and selling unwrapped sweets. We are continuing to look at ways to replace glowsticks with something more environmentally friendly. Once our stock of existing glowsticks have diminished we will not be purchasing anymore. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

### Upcoming Events in the Summer Term

Unfortunately, whilst the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions are in place, we are not able to organise any events. However, there are still many ways that you can support your PTA...

#### Branded School Hats

Don't forget that branded HCPS school hats are for sale at Sam Dale & Son in the village as an optional uniform choice. The hats look great and are available in three designs - a Winter hat, a Summer cap and a Summer cap with neck protection flap. For every hat sold, Sam Dale & Son have kindly agreed to make a donation to the PTA.

### £4£ Fund Matching

Several parents already support the PTA through employer charity schemes, e.g. Royal London and Barclays. It's a great way to increase the amount of money that we make at each event. In fact, Barclays donated £1000 to our Christmas fair total! Details about how you can help will be sent out soon, so if you or your company can help please get in touch with one of the PTA members.

### Easy Fundraising



Whenever you shop online you could be making money for the PTA through EasyFundraising. There are more than 3,000 shops on board! Just follow the simple steps below to register and start raising money for the school:

1. Join for free at:  
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holmeschapels/>
2. Each time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. Once you check out, the retailer will make a donation to the school at no extra cost to you!

### Amazon Smile



Amazon Smile is Amazon's way of helping you to support the charity of your choice. AmazonSmile offers exactly the same products, prices and services as your usual Amazon, but with the added benefit of being able to support the charity of your choice.

Every time you buy an eligible product, AmazonSmile donates 0.5 per cent of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and

shipping fees) to the charity of your choice, at no additional cost to you or your chosen charity.

You can help us support HCPS PTA by doing your shopping through [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk).

How to donate to HCPS PTA through AmazonSmile

1. Go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and log into your regular Amazon account.
2. Choose Holmes Chapel Primary School Parent Teacher Association from the charity options.
3. Do your shopping as usual.

### New PTA Members

With over 430 students in the school, we have over 800 parents and desperately need to boost our PTA numbers. Without new volunteers it is unlikely we will have the manpower to run future large events such as fairs and discos. All money raised by the PTA goes directly towards enhancing the education of your children allowing us to purchase new equipment, improve our facilities and bring exciting educational opportunities into school. If you are interested in joining the PTA, we would love to see some new faces. Just speak to a member of the PTA or email [hcps.pta@gmail.com](mailto:hcps.pta@gmail.com)

The PTA would like to thank you for all your support over the past year and hope to see you all very soon. Stay safe everyone.

Your PTA x