



Penshurst Parent Teacher Association

WINTER 2023

Season's Greetings!

September seems a long time ago as we wrap up another festive season at school. It's been exhausting but thrilling to see the joy of the children at the Secret Present Room and Christmas Party.

Thank you for the incredible support you have continued to show the PTA and our wonderful school this year. The committee love arranging our various events and it is extremely heart-warming that the children enjoy them as much as we do. We are very grateful indeed to the parent community who make it worth our while to keep doing what we do.

Our major event of this term was the Bonfire Night extravaganza at the end of half term. Despite unkind weather on the day, we raised a terrific £1,683 (including a £400 sponsorship donation from Penshurst Fuels). This has been further bolstered by £2,100 from three employers of volunteers who organised the event, leaving us with a grand sum raised of £3,783. The PTA give massive thanks to the Bonfire Night committee, who extend far beyond the PTA, and whom offer up a huge amount of time and dedication in making this huge event happen.

The PTA wish you all a happy, healthy and festive Christmas holidays. May you all enjoy this special time of year with your loved ones.

The PTA oversaw extensive drainage work to the school field and the installation of an all-weather path over the summer. These have been put to the test with the extremely wet autumn and the path requires some investigative work on one part. We are on it! Nonetheless, it has been good to have the children once again able to do the Daily Mile.

We have pledged £4,250 to school already this academic year:

- **£2,000**
for school trips
- **£1,000**
for new curriculum reading books investment
- **£1,250**
for book inserts

In September we announced our next longer-term fundraising goal would be for new interactive whiteboards across the school. We remain in dialogue with Mrs Elliott on whether this is the best use of funds as she considers the broader IT system within school.

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What we've been up to this term



The Duck Race

The PTA ran a bottle and jar tombola at the wonderful annual church event that is the Duck Race. We raised a fabulous **£256**, of which half was donated to the church. Our **£128** share further increased with thanks to the very generous donation of **£200** from the Ross family for their winning duck, and **£25** from donations to Madds' face painting team.



Autumn Cake Sale

A rather gusty day for our now traditional autumn cake sale. Thank you so much for the extremely tasty contributions and to everyone for getting their cake-eating hats on. We really appreciated the tupperware that people showed up with as we endeavour to be more mindful of the environment in everything we do. We raised a truly terrific **£226**.



Bags2School

It appears we're not all as active on Vinted as we ought to be! Thank you so much for clearing out your cupboards and finding those no-longer-needed clothes to donate to our Bag2School collection. Last year we had 190kg of contributions...this year our mammoth 51 bags of clothes and shoes weighed 230kg, raising the school **£115**. Amazing!



School Crafts

We have been fortunate to do craft activities in both short terms this year. Christmas cards were our September activity and great fun was had creating some wonderful designs. A super number of cards were purchased and we hope your friends & family enjoy them. Forge Stores also gave wooden baubles to decorate which have adorned the village shop on the "class trees" since late November.



Reflection Garden

Many plants were sadly lost in the Reflection Garden during last year's cold snap. The PTA are extremely grateful to Vanessa Foster Crouch, Theo and Izzy's grandmother, who gave us excellent planting advice and obtained new shrubs at very competitive prices. The new plants mark King Charles' Coronation and the outcome is splendid. Thank you so much to Rachael Foster, Vanessa, and Rachael's mother, Suzanne Choppen, for all their hard work in restoring the Reflection Garden to its former glory.



Christmas

Christmas has been the wonderfully hectic occasion it always is. The children had a marvellous time at the Secret Present Room, which raised a fabulous **£890**. The volunteers don't bat an eyelid as the children find those unusual items that they are certain "Mummy or Daddy will really, really want!" The Christmas party was once again a great success with Captain Fantastic running a far more polished event than any of the PTA could expect to pull off.

Upcoming events



Friends of Penshurst Coffee Morning

Thursday 8th February: do save-the-date and try to come to this wonderful event run by the Friends of Penshurst in the school hall. Very fair-priced tea and coffee available with the added bonus of delicious homemade treats. But the star attractions are always the year 6s who play their part in making it a unique coffee morning.



Harriers Half Marathon

Sunday 18th February: the Harriers have once again asked if our school would like to provide marshalls to cover the Penshurst leg of their half marathon. This is a great morning with a superb vibe in the local community. The Harriers have been very generous to our PTA over the last couple of years and we would like to have enough volunteers to offer our services again.



Wine Tasting Evening

Saturday 9th March: an inaugural event being planned by the PTA to run in the village hall. A professional sommelier to guide you through some exquisite wines with sharing platters to accompany. An alcohol-free tasting menu will also be available for the non-drinkers out there. More details to follow.



Easter Cake Bake Competition & Sale

Friday 15th March: dust off the aprons kids! Our annual baking competition is upon us and we look forward to receiving a host of Easter-themed entries. Prizes for the best creation in R/KS1 and KS2 - to be judged by a, as yet unknown, external judge. And please don't forget your tupperware at pick-up for what is bound to be a sensational cake sale!



Sponsored Easter Activity

Thursday 28th March: the final day of the Easter term and with it our usual Easter egg hunt and whatever hare-brained (excuse the pun!) sponsored event we come up with for 2024. We are crossing our fingers for a slightly less soggy day this year but, no matter the weather, it will be the fun it always is.



Penshurst Village Fete

Sunday 9th June: one of the highlights of our village's calendar and always a fantastically fun day out. Please save-the-date to either get involved with the tea tent that the PTA are running, or one of our child-led activity pitches. Or just come along for a day of enjoying all that is on offer from a host of local organisations.



PATCHWORK

The sad closure of Patchwork this year meant that we had to move our 2nd hand uniform site in short order. We have temporarily made all stock available to buy on the SumUp platform which we use for all other PTA card/applePay/online sales. We know it's not perfect (please do keep scrolling if you are looking for a certain item as it does not automatically alphabetise stock) and may yet move onto another platform. But for now it works so please do keep shopping here for any items your child(ren) may need:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Please contact Madds Jenner if you have any donations:
madds.jenner@btopenworld.com



HOW YOU CAN HELP



DONATIONS

If you would like to donate a one-off sum to help support the school in buying the resources it requires to deliver on the curriculum, then please follow the link.

[DONATE HERE](#)

Alternatively you can make a donation either direct to the PTA bank account or to the school (contact Mrs Elliot).

Penshurst Primary School Voluntary Fund
09-01-55 | 09785700



EASY FUNDRAISING

We turn your daily shopping into every day magic! Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to Penshurst PTA. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

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YOUR TIME

Do get involved - we would love more parents to join the PTA! Next meeting **7.45pm on Monday 15th January**. We are hoping the Leicester Arms will have re-opened by then so we can snoop around the newly refurbished pub at the same time!

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Useful contacts...

Your Class Reps



Maple Class: **Jen Wickens**
j.wickens@live.co.uk
(Mum of Theo R, Emily Y5)



Elm Class: **Georgina Stober**
georginast@gmail.com
(Mum of Nate Y2, Freida Y2)



Beech Class: **Hayley Bareham**
hayleybareham@gmail.com
(Mum of Max Y3, William Y1)



Oak Class: **Madds Jenner**
madds.jenner@btopenworld.com
(Mum of Tatum Y5)

PTA Committee

Hayley Bareham
Secretary & Trustee

Rachael Foster
Communications

Madeleine Jenner
Village Liaison & Trustee

Georgina Stober
Chairman & Trustee

Marc Williams
Treasurer & Trustee

Tanja Williams
Teacher Rep. & Trustee

Nicola Collyer

Charlotte Imison

Kayleigh King

Alice Lawrence

Baiba McHenry

Ciara Souissu

Su Still

Charlotte Subhan

Emily Walters

Jen Wickens

Grace Yoell



Some of your PTA team at work

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