



Avondale Parents' Association (PA) Newsletter

September 2017

WELCOME

Firstly, welcome to any new parents who arrived at the beginning of the autumn term, I hope your children have settled in well. We look forward to meeting you at some of our events during the Autumn Term. For the benefit of the new parents, this newsletter describes what the PA does for you, existing parents will be aware of most of this.

WHAT DOES THE PA DO FOR YOU & YOUR CHILDREN?

The PA is a group of like-minded parents who raise money and deliver a number of events which aim to enrich the time a child and their family spends at Avondale. Fundraising projects have included:

- subsidising the cost of a school minibus;
- subsidising the cost of the adventure playground;
- the refurbishment and restock of the library.

This year, we plan to give a retrospective payment to the school for the Astro Turf, more details below. The main fundraising event will be 'Band in a Barn' on 11 May, please put it in your diary now!!! As well as organising social events for parents (this term we will be hosting a parents get-together during the school Halloween disco), the children have lots of opportunities to get involved and benefit from PA funds. They get to go to a Pantomime (Years 1 – 6) or have a Christmas Party (EYFS). We organise competitions each term including, the Halloween disco (with prizes) in the autumn term, a spring-term Bake Off, Easter competitions and a summer-term Treasure Hunt. We also have a Picnic / BBQ in the summer term and all school leavers get a free hoodie at their final Presentation Day. We also aim to give out free ice creams at Sports Day and Presentation Day (weather dependant). I hope you are able to join in with some of our events, starting with the parents' drinks in the dining room during the Halloween Disco on 3 Nov. Our routine fundraising is completed with sweet sales in the autumn term and ice cream sales in the summer term.

FUNDRAISING IN 2017/2018

The Astro Turf represents a huge investment for the school (in the region of £30,000) which will enhance the education and sporting opportunities Avondale offers. For this reason, we have decided to support the school, albeit retrospectively as you'll be aware most of the work was completed over the summer. Our target is to raise **£5000** by the Summer Term. More details of how we aim to do that are contained in this Newsletter. There will be a formal opening (cutting of ribbon), hopefully by a VIP, when all the work is complete. Our current balance is £2167 so we need your support to reach our target.

NEXT PA MEETING – FRI 17 NOV 17 (0815)

The Parents' Association has meetings once a term (normally on a Fri in the Dining Room) and sometimes separate planning meetings for the bigger activities. There is also an Annual General Meeting in the

Summer Term where the accounts are presented and the following year's committee is voted in. All parents are welcome to attend any meeting and any ideas for PA activities are welcomed. Do come and have your say. New volunteers are always welcome and the existing class reps are appreciative for any support you may be able to offer (please speak to them or me if you'd like to do this).

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

As a reminder the class reps as follows:

Nursery: Chloe Mills

Reception: Sheryl Davis

Treasurer: Rachel Willis

Years 1: Claire Button

Year 2: Annie Sawkill

Years 3/4: Sarah Strange

Year 6: Annabel Pettit

Year 6: Ali Rawlins

Volunteers: Pauline Coleman-Moore, Morag Sheather, Hannah Sandu and Abby Runyard.

SWEET SALES

As mentioned in previous newsletters, as interest in the Cake Sales reduced dramatically last year, this term we will be doing 3 sweet sales instead; 18 Oct (the last day before half-term) and 1 Dec.

HALLOWEEN DISCO (AND PARENTS' DRINKS) – 3 NOV 17

There will be a fancy dress Halloween Disco (with prizes) for all children on Fri 3 Nov, 1800 – 2000hrs. On the same evening, parents are invited to 'meet the PA' in the dining room. Please bring your own drinks but nibbles will be provided.

BAG 2 SCHOOL – 15 NOV 2017



Please can you start searching and saving all old clothes, shoes (tied together), boots and soft toys. Bag2School bags will be sent home in your children's school bag before half-term. Please fill them to the brim plus more bags if you can (more bags are available). The more bags and more weight, the more money for the school PA so please dig deep into those wardrobes. The Bag2School in 2016/2017 raised nearly £300, let's see if we can improve on that this year.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year, we will be offering you the opportunity to purchase Christmas Cards and Gift Tags that have been designed by your children. The designs will be completed in school and cards back to you by 1 Dec.

LOOKING AHEAD - BAND IN THE BARN – FRI 11 MAY 18

Our main fundraising activity this year will be 'Band in the Barn' (in the local area) on Fri 11 May. As the name suggests, the event will be band(s) and a disco in a barn with food. Please tell all your friends, also, it would be great if we could have some old faces back and treat it as a bit of a reunion. There will also be an Auction of Promises. More details will be available later this term.



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EASY FUNDRAISING

One way the PA can earn money is through your online shopping. Most of the major companies (ie John Lewis Tesco, Amazon, etc) use Easy Fundraising by donating a fixed amount or providing a percentage of the purchased items to good causes. Why not book your holiday through one of the companies, Eg. Expedia, who donate up to 6% of your total spend. Please sign up to Easy Fundraising by going to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk and searching for Avondale Parents Association, Bulford as your cause. It's such an easy way to raise money for the school PA with **no added cost to you**. We have raised £1503 in this manner.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Any ideas for fundraising or other events and any volunteers are welcome.

Thank you for your continued support.

Claire Button

Avondale Parents' Association Chair

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