

PTA ANNUAL REPORT

Registered Charity Number 1187157

October 2020

Following the strangest of years, the PTA would like to welcome all new parents and carers to Aldersbrook Primary School and hope that all pupils, old and new, have settled back into the new way of doing things. It's been great to see the school busy again.

For those new to the concept of a Parent Teacher Association this report will be a great overview of what we do. All parents, carers and teachers are members of the PTA and we welcome everyone to our meetings, to help at our events or offer any support they can. Our goal is to support the education of the pupils by running activities and fundraising/social events to create funds to provide equipment and resources for the school. In this last academic year, we also became a charity meaning we can maximise our fundraising through gift aid and other charitable donations. If you, or anyone you know, works for a business that can provide charitable support please let us know!

PTA Annual General Meeting

This year our AGM will be online due to Covid restrictions. The meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm**. You can join the meeting using the following link.

<https://ucl.zoom.us/j/94550813471?pwd=bmq0SWhmbmhFMldvRmN5dUJmRVBndz09>

Meeting ID: 945 5081 3471

Passcode: 560359

This term there will be changes to the core committee of the PTA. Lucy Thomas (Chair) and Jane Skelding (Secretary) will be standing down from their role after 3 and 4 years respectively. We have had some interest but if anyone would like to put themselves forward for these or any other roles, please email on Aldersbrookpta@gmail.com with your intent. We welcome people who would like to take on smaller roles to support the core committee.

At the meeting we will be voting in the new committee, presenting the Treasurer's Report, reviewing last year's fundraising and spending, as well as discussing new fundraising opportunities. We ask that anyone who has suggestions or questions for the meeting should contact us on the email above ahead of the meeting so we can add to the agenda and be able to run the meeting smoothly. Anyone joining the meeting will be muted until all main business has been covered and questions and discussion are allowed.

Events

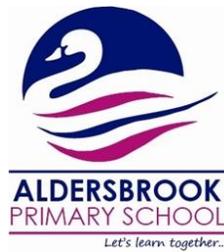
Despite Covid stopping us in our tracks, we did manage to run some great events in the first 6 months of the year. We'd like to thank everyone who was involved in their success. They included the Winter Fair, Halloween Disco, Break the Rules Day, Ale V Lager Night and, of course, our ongoing Cake Sale. Special thanks to Fosha, Nic Coe, Katy Meaden and Michelle Richards for their work on those events. Thanks also to Susan Gale and Fran Hills for organising the post lockdown Jumble Trail which raised an amazing £1600 for the PTA but more importantly was the community event we all needed!

In total we raised around £14,000 from the above, not including the extra donations from our new fundraising page (see below). The details of these can be seen on the PTA accounts attached to the email.

We also wanted to thank the Year 6 Parents who gave Year 6 an amazing send off after their last year at Aldersbrook was rudely cut short. We hope they have all settled into their new schools.

Fundraising Page

I'm sure everyone has seen news of our new Fundraising Page on other school communication. This was the brainchild of parent Tim Diacon (who has recently moved away with his family). We want to thank him for all his continuing work on this page as we have raised more than £10,000 over the last few months which is truly amazing. In a year where we were unable to run many of our normal events this has been a very welcome addition to our fundraising opportunities. All the



money raised will be invested into the inspiring School Kitchen project which is due to be started this month! Thank you to all parents and families who have donated already. If you would like to make a one off or month recurring donation and have not yet done so please check out the page www.aldersbrookpta.org. Thank you so much in advance.

Spending

As with every year we funded regular requests from the school, such as Book Bags for all EYFS starters, Guinness World Record books for every class, Recorders for Year 2 as well as keeping the Library Bus stocked with new releases! The main project last year was the transformation of a redundant corner of the back playground into the Forest School Area. Thanks to Andrew Pellen for his work on this.



We also replaced the PTA shed which stores all the equipment needed to run our events. Thanks again to the Goddens, Finkernagels (and their shed team), as well as Summit for donating some supplies. The old shed would not have survived another winter! Our final funding support of the school year was for playground equipment when half the school returned after lockdown. The children spent a lot of time outside using all the socially distanced games and apparatus we purchased.

For the coming year most of our funds will be going towards the School Kitchen project. Thank you to Mr Hughes for his dedication to this dream, to Charlie Cruikshanks for getting the idea off the ground and Martin Gruenangar, Ola Hotson and Julian from Summit for bringing it to life. We cannot wait to see it up and running.

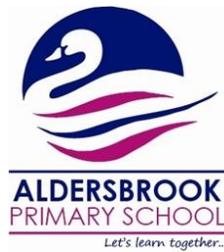
Halloween Dress Up Day

As this year we are not able to run the Halloween Disco (nor will children really be able to Trick or Treat) we thought a dress up day would give the kids a chance to have some spooky fun at school. This will now be on Wednesday 21st October (previous newsletter stated Thurs 22nd but Year 6 are swimming that day and we don't want them to miss their last Halloween at Aldersbrook). Children can come dressed in a Halloween costume (or just non-uniform if they would rather) and we would be grateful if you could bring a coin donation for the School Kitchen.

Adventure Island

Many of you have already bought Adventure Island tickets from us. We do still have a few left (bought more this year as we sold out last year!) so if anyone would like to buy some or get anymore please email. They will be open all over half term and go to town on Halloween so it could be a great day out when many other day trips aren't possible. All tickets can be redeemed this year and extended at customer services if you don't end up going until next year so not much risk! Blue bands are £17 and Green/Red bands are £13. Check out their website to find out which tickets you need www.adventureisland.co.uk

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Easyfundraising

An easy way to support the PTA is www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Go to the website or download the app and set Aldersbrook School PTA as your preferred cause. Most retailers are on there and if you purchase through them (you are directed to the main retailer's website) the PTA will get a percentage of the purchase. Money for nothing for the PTA and at no cost to you. So far we have raised over £4300 this way (£673 in last year), every penny of which we can plough back into the school! We currently have 142 supporters but with well over 500 parents in the school we can do better! For every new supporter who uses the link below the PTA will get an extra £5 when that supporter has raised £5. Join today and start fundraising whilst you shop!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aldersbrookpta/?invite=XX53CW&referral-campaign=s2s>

Stikins

Stikins are easy to use name label stickers which can be used in clothes, shoes and on water bottles and packed lunch boxes. They are washing machine and dishwasher proof. If you purchase using the Aldersbrook PTA code of **292**, the PTA gets a percentage of each purchase. Last year we raised over £100 this way! Please go to www.stikins.co.uk and remember to use the special code.

Lockdown Uniform Fund

We would like to remind everyone about the Lockdown Uniform Fund created in July for families who have found themselves in difficult situation post lockdown. Please contact Ms Kari, Mr Gibson or Sasheen on 07765573878 if you would like help with free uniform. Thanks to Sasheen for her commitment to this Fund and to all parents who donated an amazing amount of uniform. If you still have uniform in good condition to donate please contact her on the number above. We hope to help as many families as possible during these difficult times.

Facebook Page and Contact

For those on social media we recommend following the Aldersbrook PTA Facebook page to keep up with news, events and most importantly, reminders about dress up days! <https://www.facebook.com/Aldersbrookpta>
As mentioned above we can also be contacted on Aldersbrookpta@gmail.com

Final Personal Note

As you will have read above Jane and I are standing down next week. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us grow the PTA over the last few years. We really have enjoyed our time in charge and ask that everyone supports the new Chair and Secretary in any way they can. Thanks to Sara Ford who was Treasurer when we took over and Iain Smith who has kept us in line since she left. And final thanks goes to all staff, especially Mr Hughes, Mr and Mrs Gibson, Mrs Crouch and Mrs Hunt who are so encouraging in everything we do and make all our fundraising worthwhile. Our bottom line is making Aldersbrook the best school it can be!

Lucy Thomas and Jane Skelding