

Park Hill PTA Newsletter: (Term One round up)

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Editorial: Happy New Year to you all from the PTA! We hope that you feel rested after a busy Autumn Term, and that you have had a wonderful Christmas break. It's back to business now, and we thought you would appreciate an update on funding so far, this academic year. We have worked hard with you, since September, to kick off our year of fundraising, with a focus on the school grounds and look forward to a range of fantastic fundraising events this year. Remember, contact us any time at parkhilljuniorpta@gmail.com

PTA Perspective: Michelle Kitchen

Dressing up as an elf may not be everyone's cup of tea, but I volunteered to help Santa in the Grotto at the PTA Christmas Fair and had such a fun time. I really enjoyed seeing the joy on the children's faces as they met Santa. There are so many other ways you can volunteer for the PTA that don't involve dressing up! As well as helping out at the PTA events such as Bingo Night or the School Disco, I've made sweet cones and wrapped Mothers' Day gifts. I've enjoyed getting to know a whole new group of parents through volunteering and it's great to know that all of the children at Park Hill benefit from the time and effort put in by volunteers to help raise funds for the school. So if you haven't fancied helping before then why not give it a try in 2019? You'll enjoy yourself, I'm sure!

We were delighted to be able to fund the coaches for the WHOLE school to go to the theatre in December. Your Christmas fundraising enabled this to happen!



Festive fundraising!

Christmas cards £235

Christmas Fair £985

Christmas Disco £782

Thanks for getting into the spirit!

**TOTAL FUNDS RAISED
SINCE SEPTEMBER 2018:**

£2585



THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Improving the school grounds

The PTA parent survey helps us to shape the work we do. In the summer you told us that you would like to see more spending on the school grounds and outdoor space, which was raised and discussed at the October AGM. As a result, we are focussing a good deal of funds raised this year on projects outside, including (so far!) tee pees and seating in the copse and new recycling bins. We recently held a poll in school and children voted for new outdoor weaving kits and basketball hoops so that's what we are funding next! Since September we have spent £1318 on the school grounds. Thank you for your support!



Christmas Fair 2018



You said: "Thanks to everyone who helped to organise the Christmas Fair...a fab event; our girls had a great time!"

COMING UP IN SPRING 2019....

- **Parents' Night In!** Saturday 2nd February...still time to book a place for you or your team.
- **Zumba and Prosecco night** - Wednesday 6th March.....yup, you heard it here first!
- **All new Easter hampers** - More chances of winning something lovely this year!

Thorns PTA Newsletter: Autumn Term fundraising update

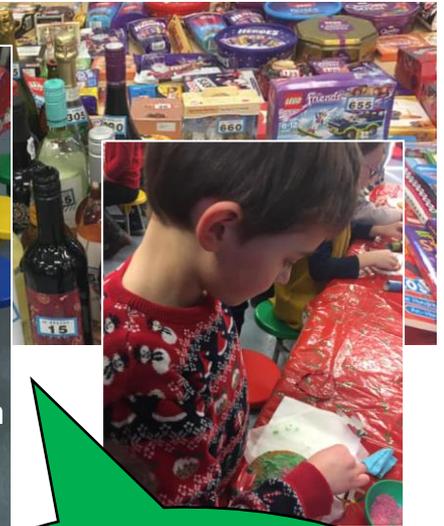
Welcome back to Thorns after the Christmas break! It was a really busy first term, as ever, for the PTA as we welcomed new families with our Autumn Term picnic, elected a new Chair at our October AGM and began in earnest with our fundraising for 2018-19! We're pretty proud of our total so far (see below) and thank you all for your support this year. Lots more to come in 2019, so read on and please get in touch with us at thornsppta@gmail.com, join our private Facebook group (search for 'Thorns PTA') or use our new suggestions box (see more below) to get your ideas heard. Looking forward to fundraising with you this year!



Total funds raised since September...



Afternoon with Santa



**£832
raised!**

Feedback from this event:
"Thanks for a lovely time again and especially all the preparation and hard work!"

Volunteer views...

"I started volunteering with the PTA when my eldest daughter started in Reception and I am still an active member now with my second daughter now at Thorns. I really enjoy helping to plan and run events – the children really enjoy attending the many events we run, and also I love seeing the benefit to the school as this makes it really worth all the time and effort put in. It was also a great way to meet new likeminded parents, and many of these parents are now great friends."

Emma Wheatley (organiser of Afternoon with Santa)

Give us your ideas!

Our monthly committee meetings are open to everyone, but we know it's not always easy to make those times. So this year we have introduced our 'Suggestions Box' which is by the school office along with some slips to fill in. Please let us know any ideas you have for events or activities, or for spending our funds.



Funding projects at school

We are committed to spending your hard-earned funds effectively, and at our monthly committee meetings we ask the school representatives to indicate what staff and children would like us to fund. At the end of the Summer term we funded **laptops and software** (£680 each) for every class. We have funded new **ASCO building blocks** (£200) for the Reception children, which are a well-used outdoor learning toy. The Thorns **swimming pool** was originally funded (and dug out!) by the PTA and we also support its upkeep, this term paying for **new filters** (£780). Finally, this Autumn, Mr.Parkin has **transformed the old bike shelter** near Brambles into a colourful place for children to sit and meet, as well as **refurbished some tired benches** (£580 together) on the front playground. Thank you Mr.P! And now, of course, we have the new bike and scooter shelter in place!



De-clutter your home and kickstart the term with these two great fundraising activities!

'Bags 2 School' returns on **Friday 25th January** so fill some bags with clothing, curtains and other items you no longer need, at morning drop off. And to add something new this term there'll be our 'snack sale' (in response to the PTA Parent Survey) as well as our new **second hand toy and book sale on Friday 1st February at 3pm**. All monies raised will be split between the classes. See our book bag letter for more details.

