**Summary**

Welcome to the first PTA newsletter of the 2017-18 academic year and a special hello to our new parents. All parents/carers of children at SCPS are members of the SCPS PTA and we exist to not only to fundraise for the school but to create a social opportunity for parents, staff and pupils to get together.

Your PTA makes sure all the money raised is spent as effectively as possible across the whole school, for example last year the PTA funded a new interactive whiteboard for Year 2, outdoor play equipment for Kites, two scooter racks, expansion of the school website to show music and sporting achievements, materials to tidy up the area between the playgrounds, partial funding of books for the new literacy scheme, a new scheme for Design and Technology and lots of new sports equipment as well as many smaller requests and we also gave each teacher £200 to spend on their class in whichever way they like. We also sponsor a child in Africa as part of Education for Life.

So far this year we have already had a second hand uniform sale and a car boot sale and there are lots more fun events lined up for you all, read on for more details.

We have an enthusiastic committee but we would love to see more people, so if you would like to get involved you will be made very welcome. Please email pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk for more information.

**Bag2School – Thursday 28th September**

Your child should have received a plastic bag in their book bags for Bag2School. Bags can be filled with any clean children’s and adult’s clothing and shoes (pairs) which are then collected for re-use. The bags are weighed and the PTA receive money per kg for the contents. Towels, curtains or branded school uniform are no longer accepted, and please make sure items are suitable for wearing.

**Wine Tasting Night – Friday 3rd November 7:30pm**

This is an evening event for parents/carers and offers the opportunity to get to know other parents and to have fun at the same time. The wine tasting will be hosted by an experienced Waitrose wine buyer and there will be a wine and food matching quiz to entertain you (nothing too competitive, just something to add to the fun).

Prices are £15 per ticket, which includes a welcome drink, tasting of 8 wines and accompanying cheese and biscuits. There will be a cash bar for the purchase of any additional drinks.

If you would like a ticket please complete this form and put it in the PTA box (in the school reception) together with payment (cheques payable SCPS PTA please) and your tickets will be sent to you. Alternatively you can buy tickets from PTA members on Friday 6th October in the playground after school.

Name:

Number of tickets (£15 each): Total payments: £

e-mail address (for tickets to be sent to):

**Children’s Disco – Thursday 19th October**

The PTA are holding two Children’s Discos to celebrate the end of the first term. The first Disco is for KS1 (Kites, Y1 and Y2) from 4:15 – 5:45pm. The second Disco is for KS2 (Yr 3,4,5 and 6) from 6:00-7:30pm.

The Discos are £2.50 per child payable on the door which includes a drink and crisps.

Please collect KS1 children at 6pm at the back entrance to the hall (in the Kites garden) to avoid incoming KS2 children.

**Non Uniform Day – Friday 24th November**

We are holding a non-uniform Day on Friday 24th November to support the Christmas Fair. Children are invited to wear their own clothes to school, but please remember that these need to be suitable for a normal day at school (no fancy dress). To “pay” for wearing non-uniform, children are asked to bring to school (on Friday morning):

a **bottle or jar** for the adult tombola

a small **wrapped present** for the Children's tombola (eg a pocket money toy or game or book or whatever you like suitable for children aged 5-11, preferably for boys or girls).

**Cakes** (large or small) that can be sold at the fair (homemade or bought)

clean soft toys, games, DVDs and books for the second hand toy stall.

In addition, we aim to produce 3 really good hamper prizes for the raffle (a foodie one, one for a man and one for a woman) and would appreciate any good quality items that could go in these hampers.

**Christmas Fair – Saturday 25th November 12-3pm**

It’s not too early to start thinking about the Christmas Fair, your committee are already planning lots of exciting things to do at the Fair, and of course there will be a visit from Father Christmas himself. So put the date in your diary now. If you have any good ideas for stalls for the Fair or would like to help with the organisation please contact the pta asap (pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk)

**Christmas cards**

Your children have been busy in school designing Christmas cards for you to buy, please look out for these in the book bags and place your orders in good time for Christmas.

**On Going** **Collections**

We also have ongoing collections for unwanted cables, printer cartridges and used pens as well as collecting supermarket vouchers for schools from all the supermarkets, collection boxes are in the bike shed, opposite the school reception.

**Christmas Shopping?**

We have just joined a new Cash Back Scheme run by EASYFUNDRAISING.org.uk. It’s really easy to join and will help us raise some additional funds for the school. Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Sonning Common Primary School?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sonningcommonprimary/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping. (If you set up the DONATION REMINDER tool you won’t even have to remember to visit the site!)

3. After you’ve checked out, that retailer will make a donation to Sonning Common Primary for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and we’ll be really grateful for your donations.

**Desperately Seeking Sponsors**

Do you work for a large company that offers matched funding? Some companies will offer to match funds raised, so if you help with an event the PTA could receive additional money, all of which goes to provide equipment or events for your child. Could your company offer to sponsor some equipment for school?

If you think you could help please contact us on pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk .

**Want to Know More?**

We are always pleased to accept new people on the committee. For more information about the PTA please see Wendy Perry (the Chair) or Caroline Conway (in Kites). There is also a PTA box in the school reception where we would be pleased to receive any comments and ideas for fundraising or you can email pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk for more information.

**Further Dates to Note**

**Friday 15th December 2017 Christmas Bingo, 3:30pm in the school hall**

**Thursday 18th January 2018 PTA AGM**

**Friday 26th January PTA Quiz night**

**Thursday 8th February Children’s Valentine Disco**

**Sunday 25th March On Your Bike (cycle ride)**

**Saturday 23rd June Summer Fair**

**Saturday 7th July Camp Out weekend (camp at school!)**

Just a final note, we have had to revert to an “old school” type of newsletter. Despite favourable comments about our new look, we have found some people prefer the text only style as it is more easily read when sent out via ParentMail, so we have decided to go back to the old style. Check out the pta pages on the website for photos of our events in the future.