**Summary**

The PTA would like to update you on your new committee, who were voted in at the recent AGM.

* Chair Amy O’Connor
* Secretary Helen Simic
* Treasurer Carly Hunt

Our thanks go to Wendy Perry who has stepped down as Chair, Wendy has led the team for 3 years and we are grateful for all her hard work.

We have had discussions with parents recently who were not fully aware of the work the PTA does in supporting the school. The current situation with government funding for schools means that schools cannot fund the previously essential items in a classroom such as interactive white boards. Your PTA, with the help of **YOU** supporting our events, provides funding for such equipment, when they suddenly fail, so that children do not go without essential learning tools. We also fund the nice little extras without which our school wouldn’t be as interesting, such as playground improvements, workshops and IT equipment.

Since January 2019, the PTA have hosted a Quiz night, run by Mr and Mrs Dunstan which raised **£322** and the fabulous school discos, which raised **£609**. A big thank you to staff and parents who supported these events.

Don’t forget all the money raised is used for the benefit of **your children.** If you’d like to join in running any event and contribute or learn more about the PTA, our next committee meeting is on **Monday 18th March at 7.45 in the ICT Suite**. We’ve already started planning for our glorious Summer Fair, for which as always, we’d love some new volunteers for the team ! If you would like to get involved you will be made very welcome, please email [pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk) for more information. There is also a PTA box in the school reception where we would be pleased to receive any comments and ideas for events.

**On Your Bike (OYB) Sunday 31st March**

Join the annual '[On Your Bike](http://www.onyourbikesonningcommon.co.uk/onyourbike/cycleride/index.html)' event, the largest family cycle ride in South Oxfordshire (last year nearly 470 people joined in!) The ride explores leafy lanes and stunning local countryside with three routes of 5.5 miles, 12 miles and 20 miles. There will also be a supervised playground cycle for the smaller children. You don’t even have to be part of the school community, anyone is welcome to join the fun ! This year we are raising money for FISH, Sonning Common First Responders and our School.

Go to our website [www.onyourbikesonningcommon.co.uk](http://www.onyourbikesonningcommon.co.uk) to register now and get all the up to date information. Everyone who registers before Sunday 17th March will be entered into the prize draw to win a new bike, kindly donated by AW Cycles. AW Cycles are also offering free bike checks at their Caversham shop, Henley Road before OYB.

We need volunteers to run the playground cycle (usually someone whose child won’t go on the main ride and who would prefer not to cycle themselves either), for kitchen helpers to serve food in the hall/playground and for marshals on the route (to make sure people go the right way!). If you can help with marshalling (you get a free breakfast and lunch!) please contact Geoff Davis at [onyourbikemarshals@gmail.com](mailto:onyourbikemarshals@gmail.com).

**Bag2School Tuesday 2nd April 9:00am**

There will be a Bag2School collection on Tuesday 2nd April, the bags will be distributed nearer the time but why not start collecting now when you spring clean your wardrobes and make money for your school. We are paid by the tonne so the more you donate, the more money we get. Remember they will accept any good quality clothing or shoes that can be re-worn (also handbags, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels and bedding). They do NOT accept blankets, duvets, textile offcuts, torn or damaged clothing or school uniform.

**Test the parents – a nostalgic night of trivia! Friday 26th April 7:30pm**

Following last year’s successful Trivia Quiz where we will be testing our parents on their ‘80s, ‘90s and Noughties popular culture knowledge. We are busy preparing a range of interactive quiz style questions and challenges and will of course be serving plenty of drinks and snacks.

**School Lottery**

Sonning Common Primary School PTA has launched a lottery! Tickets cost just £1 each, for each weekly draw; 40% of ticket sales are donated to our school. You can buy as many tickets as you wish (and choose your lucky numbers) and it's all paid online via a direct debit. The school is aiming to raise £1,000 in the first year in order to buy classroom equipment for all of your children to benefit from.

There is a GUARANTEED cash prize to someone from our school supporter list **every** **week**, and a further chance of winning £25,000 in a separate nationwide draw **every** **week**!

To start supporting, please visit: [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play) and search for Sonning Common Primary School. Tell your friends and family to join in too.

**Do you do any Online Shopping? Of course you do !**

Please use our cash back scheme, which is run by Easyfundraising. It’s easy to join and will help us raise money to be spent on your children. Just go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) and search for the school, then register. You can install a donation reminder and an app to your phone to make it easy. So far 71 people have raised £545, but we have over 400 children at school so it would be great if everyone could start using it and raise even more money. You’d be surprised at how many retailers are listed, even Amazon, John Lewis, Tesco, Waitrose, ebay, M&S, Next and loads more !

**Seeking Corporate 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](mailto:pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk)

**Waste Collections for Recycling – FREE MONEY for our school !**

We are now recycling:

* any crisp packets, including multi-pack outer wrappers & Pringle tubes
* toothbrushes - toothpaste tubes - electric tooth brush head and any packaging associated with this type of product
* any plastic writing implement
* Personal care spray bottle tops - Plastic pots and flexible plastic tubes (used for personal care and beauty products) - Hair colourant kits (except ridged plastic bottles and packaging) - Plastic deodorant roll-on - Flexible plastic packaging (used for personal care and beauty products)

The more we collect and recycle, the more money we will be given.

**Collection bins are all located inside the library and around school. Encourage your workplace colleagues and friends to recycle as well.** We are the only collection point for these materials within a 5 mile radius !

**On Going** **Collections**

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

**Want to Know More?**

We are always pleased to accept new people on the team, whether you’d like to help run an event or find out more. For more information about the PTA please contact Amy O’Connor (the Chair) or Caroline Conway (in Kites) by email [pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk).

**Upcoming Dates for you Diary 2019**

**Friday 15th March Village Quiz night 8pm**

**Sunday 31st March On Your Bike (cycle ride) 10 for 10.30am**

**Tuesday 2nd April Bag2School collection 9am**

**Friday 26th April Test the Parents 7.30pm**

**Saturday 23rd June Summer Fair 12-3pm**

**Saturday 13th July Colour Run and Summer BBQ 3-7pm**