



ASHWELL SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR!
2016**

Welcome to 2016 and to the start of a new term. Looking back at last term the PTA have been very busy raising valuable funds for the school.

Last Term

After our very well supported AGM in September, October saw our first PTA event of the school year, which was the very popular **Children's Monster Ball** disco. Huge thanks must go to Ashwell's resident DJ, Simon McCutcheon, who had the children singing and dancing along to their favourite pop songs. The event made a profit of £456.90.

Bonfire Night came next, again held in Ashwell. We would like to say a big thank you to the Ashwell Cycle Club and Tennis Club for letting us use their field and car park. We would also like to give thanks to Duncan Wardrop and Tony Dean (ex parents) for putting on a fantastic firework display. Without them this event would not be possible and we are very thankful for their support and dedication to the school.



The weather was a lot kinder to us this year and the evening was a great success with many people attending. The event made an incredible profit of £1,467.96, double the year before!

Finally in December the children were entertained at a **Film Night**. Listening to feedback from the children we split them up with years 1 and 2 watching Robin Hood and the other years watching Big Hero 6. With lots of pizza and popcorn the children settled down and enjoyed the films. The event made a profit of £335.30



The PTA can only run these great events with the fantastic support you the parents give. Whether you gave up an hour to help prepare food, set up, clear up, run a stall, supervise at a disco, donate a cake or attend an event, all of these help to make events great successes and raises valuable funds for the School.

Upcoming Events



Burns Night
23rd January from 7.30pm.

School Disco
Friday 12th February



Ashwell Village Quiz
Saturday 19th March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
23 rd January	Burns Night
28 th January	PTA Meeting (London House, High Street, Ashwell 8pm)
29 th January	Let Them Eat Cake (Year 4)
12 th February	School Disco
19 th March	Village Quiz
8 th May	Ashwell At Home

Thank you to all who came along to the AGM. We have an enthusiastic team of parents who all hope to make a difference to our School.

The Committee Officers were appointed

Chair - Carolyn van Beers

Vice Chair - Heather Hayes

Treasurer - Cathy Patterson

Co- Treasurer - Misty Hurd

Secretary - Bill Yianni

Publicity - Caroline Marlborough

Class Representatives

Nursery - Emily Berry/ Maria Sengupta

Reception - Maria Hilling

Year 1 -

Year 2 - Ni Button/ Elizabeth Kendrick

Year 3 -

Year 4 - Rachel Burke

Year 5 - Ni Button/ Elizabeth Kendrick

Year 6 -

Other Members of the Committee are Holly Kingsley, Amy Moss, Gina Lovejoy, Tom Kemp and Helen Hardy.

As you can see, we have a few years with no Class Representatives which we would like to fill; if you are interested please contact a Committee Member or the School Office.

What is a Class Rep? They do the following on behalf of the Committee:

- A Committee Member who acts as a contact point for their year group.
- To communicate with parents in their year group to get help for an event, donation of a cake or quiche etc.
- To make parents aware of any social events.

We are always looking for new ways to raise funds for the School, so if you any ideas or suggestions please either speak to a member of the Committee or you can email the PTA on pta@ashwell.herts.sch.uk

**The focus of fundraising this year
is to improve the
School's ICT resources
(ipads) and to
enhance the outside
areas.**



A way to raise funds for the School from the comfort of your own home!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

This is a platform through which you can generate funds for the School when doing normal online shopping and online web searches just visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk search for Ashwell Primary School, Baldock and follow the simple steps to sign up.

Every time you shop via the link you will earn a donation to our School at no additional cost to you! So whether you are buying ink for your printer on Amazon, booking a summer holiday or just downloading music you can generate valuable funds for the School.

Company Matched Giving

What? Matched giving is a simple way of maximising funds raised. It is a corporate arrangement where companies pledge to donate to a voluntary or charitable organisation a sum relating to the amount their employee donates to or raises for the organisation.

How? Organisations may match funds in a variety of ways, the most common being:

- time donated by their staff for voluntary work
- a donation made to the charity
- the matching of funds raised from a sponsored event
- the matching of funds raised through a specific activity e.g. staffing a stall at a PTA fair
- Gifts in kind eg donating equipment or services like in-house printing

BENEFITS

Company	PTA	Employee
Boosts staff morale	Double the fundraising for no extra effort!	Increased contribution for no extra effort
Tax benefits	May lead to further sponsorship opportunities	Helping your child's school
Positive PR		
Social responsibility		
Minimal admin burden		

Who? As matched giving is an informal scheme, there are no definitive lists of companies that are willing to take part. However, there are some good examples of larger companies who have excellent schemes in operation - it is useful to know these to mention to companies who do not yet have a scheme. Some larger companies have publicly announced their matched giving schemes. For example Barclays match funds up to £750 per employee per year, and both Cable & Wireless and Yorkshire Bank offer employees the chance to match funds up to £1,000 per year!

If you don't know whether or not your company does this, speak to the Community Relations Manager if there is one, or HR or your immediate line manager. Once the company has agreed to match funds ask them to put their pledge in writing to the PTA. While there is no standard form for making this commitment, it is useful for everyone to have the pledge confirmed, including details of any agreed limit.