



A Guide to Camp School Parents' Association

If you find yourself confused by talk of Camp School Cake Sales, Ice Cream Fridays, School Fairs and other goings-on then this is the guide for you...

So, who exactly are the Parents' Association? We are a parent association and not a parent-teacher association. Every parent, grandparent and carer with a child at Camp is a member of the Parents' Association and is able to participate in and contribute towards all fundraising events.

What do we raise money for? We run all sorts of events and activities throughout the year to raise funds for the school: the PA have just made a payment of £10,000 to school to help fund the conversion of the ICT suite into a new library for all children and staff to use. In recent years the PA has jointly funded the running track, new playground equipment, contributed to the sensory room, Reception reading shed, iPads, a portable oven, authors for book week, significant funding for books, Christmas pantos, school trips, parties, birthday books for every child, Christmas gifts, ice lollies on Sports Day, and so on. Our input is a valuable addition to school life and greatly enhances the children's school experience. And none of it would be possible without help from our parent, grandparent and carer community.

Who runs the PA? The PA is run by a committee of 3 named people. A new team has just been appointed: Chair, Sandra Teague (parent to Sofia T, Year 3 and Oscar, Reception), Secretary, Claire Simmonds (parent to Maddy, Reception) and Treasurer, Tara Stebnicky (parent to Liriel, Year 3). The committee is supported by Catherine Gentle (parent to Toby, Year 3 and Helen, Reception), Clare Alexander (parent to Abigail, Year 5 and Ted, Reception) and a parent/carers from each year who acts as a class representative and passes on PA messages to each class.

The new team replaces Meg Bellingham (former Chair), Andi Yoxall (former Secretary) and Ruth Cassidy (former Treasurer).

Volunteers The team is heavily dependant on the whole of the Camp community coming together and volunteering their time in order to take on jobs – without other people taking on jobs, then activities and events will not be able to occur as the committee cannot make them happen without your support. We are extremely grateful for the help we have had in previous years from regular volunteers, however, we always need more people coming forward to help. If you haven't helped before, then please think about giving it a go. Remember, all our children benefit from the work that the PA does. If it ceases to function, it is the children who will lose out as many of these costs will not be covered by the school – the events/activities just won't happen.

How do we raise money?

Please see Dates for your Diary for this year's dates.

Fairs: Our main activities are the Summer and Christmas Fairs, which take place in June and December respectively. In case you haven't been before, these are great fun for all the family with crafts, gifts, pocket money and cake stalls, a games arcade, face-painting, tombola, lucky dip, refreshments and hot food and many, many other things to entertain young and old. At Christmas, children can visit Santa in his grotto and we also have a special supervised room where children can choose and/or wrap their very own secret Christmas gift for their parents/carers!

Cake sales: We will run 3 cake sales, which will be organised by the parents and carers of the following year groups:

- Reception and their buddies in Year 5,
- Years 1 and 2, and
- Years 3 and 4.

The cake sales offer an opportunity for children from all year groups and their parents/carers to enjoy some delicious cake! These take place in the dining room after school, currently on a Thursday afternoon.

Uniform sales: We will sell second-hand school uniform throughout the year. This is an opportunity to get nearly new uniform for a great price. We intend to hold the uniform sales at the same time as the cake sales. If you find that you urgently need uniform and can't wait for a sale, the PA may be able to help, depending on what stock is available. It is worth remembering that one of the easiest ways parents can help raise funds is by donating uniform their children have outgrown for sale by the PA. Alternatively, if you are offered second-hand uniform by another parent, why not make a contribution to PA funds? We are currently selling cardigans for £3, sweaters and polo shirts for £2.50 and all other items for £1.

The Camp Out! Camp Out started in 2015 and has proved an extremely popular and successful event. It takes place in July and is a great opportunity for children and their families to play, socialise and get to know each other. You can either stay for the evening or camp overnight on the school field. Either way, you will have a great time.

Ice Cream Friday and the Yearbook: In addition, from Easter during the Summer term and, weather permitting, in the Autumn first half term, the PA runs 'Ice Cream Friday'. Ice creams and lollies are available to buy after school in the playground for 50p and the children can stay and play until 4pm. All profits from the sale of the ices go towards funding the School Yearbook, which comes out at the end of the Summer term, and records the children's achievements over the year with pictures, photos and comments. Every child is given a copy at the end of term and extra copies are available to buy (the more we sell, the more money we raise!).

Extra activities: In addition to the above, we also run a number of occasional fund raising activities, which have included Christmas cards/ tea towels. We provide materials for Christmas tree decorations, run a hugely popular **Quiz Night** and will run another **Comedy Night**, which was so popular last time, that we had to turn people away!

Vouchers: We collect Morrisons and Sainsburys supermarket vouchers when on offer and during these times a collection box can be found opposite the office, or hand them to the school office!

AGM: Our Annual General Meeting takes place in the Autumn term, and is a chance for us to review the previous year's activities, sign-off the accounts, set important dates for the forthcoming year and start to think about what other things we'd like to do. In addition to the AGM, we will be in the playground every Friday afternoon and are happy to hold adhoc PA meetings to give everyone the chance to attend/contribute. Please come see us and have your say!

How can you get involved? As you have probably gathered, we are always looking for volunteers and helpers. We need people to bake and/or bring items to sell/eat at our cake sales, fairs and other events; to help to make decorations and run craft/activity tables for the children at the fairs; to help set up the fairs, mind the stalls and tidy up afterwards; to donate raffle prizes and bring in items for the various stalls and tombola (if you have a useful contact or work for a business prepared to sponsor an event/prize please let us know) and to tell us what you would like to see happening. And last, but not least, to come along to the events with your family and friends and enjoy yourself.

More ways to help If you are unable to volunteer or attend events, there are other ways you can help, such as by:

- providing prizes for raffles;
- match funding from your employer;

- making cash donations;
- doing your online shopping through **Easy Fundraising**. All you need to do is register Camp Primary and Nursery School as your cause, set up an account (for free) and do your shopping via the portal. Easy Fundraising works in partnership with over 3,300 well know online retailers (including Amazon, Argos, Boots, Ebay, M&S, NEXT, The Book People, most food retailers and John Lewis), who make small donations to the school every time you shop. It's a quick and easy way of helping the school every time you shop. Here's the link:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Please contact the PA Committee if you wish to make donations to the school.

What if you have a fundraising idea? Each academic year the PA gives careful consideration to every event we run. If you have a great idea that we haven't yet tried, or attend a great event that you feel would work well for our school community, please know that every parent and carer is very welcome to organise their own fundraising event. The only permission required is from our Head Teacher, Mrs Barton. After all, every parent, grandparent and carer is a member of the Camp School PA.

Want to find out more? We would encourage you to join **The Campers – Camp School Parents Facebook page** as this is the quickest way to get updates/requests for support out to people when help is needed. We would also recommend that you join the **WhatsApp** group for your children's year groups, as the class representatives often share PA news this way.

You can also reach us by:

- speaking to us in the playground - one of us is usually in the playground every day and we will be there every Friday afternoon;
- emailing us on camppa.herts@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for all your help and we look forward to seeing you very soon!