



Deer Park School
PARENTS & TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Information for New Families

Welcome to Deer Park School!

This booklet has been compiled by Deer Park School's Parent-Teacher Association (**PTA**) for new families joining the school community. We are sure you will have many questions as you settle into school life. On the following pages we have aimed to provide you with key information about the PTA, which forms a major part of school life.

If you have any questions that remain unanswered, please contact one of the Committee members, your class teacher or class representative.

Why do we have a PTA?

Deer Park PTA has been in existence since the school was founded in 2015. The purpose of the PTA is twofold:

- 1) **Fundraising:** The PTA raises vital funds to assist the school in purchasing equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience by stretching the curriculum and extending the school's facilities. The elected PTA Committee works closely with the school to identify key funding priorities every year.
- 2) **Community Engagement:** The PTA also serves to provide closer links between home and school, and is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal.

All families are enrolled as members of Deer Park School PTA when their children join the school, and we encourage engagement from members of the school community.

Regular events in the PTA calendar include our Winter Fair, quiz nights, movie nights, discos, sporting tournaments and sponsored walk. We also participate in local community fairs such as the Richmond May Fair and the St Margaret's Fair. Though now a decade old, the PTA is always keen to hear new ideas on how to fundraise and improve engagement.

How does the PTA raise money?

Like most PTAs, most of our funds are raised through running events for the school.

The PTA works closely with the Headteacher, department heads and school staff as well as the School Council to identify the school's most pressing needs and to respond to them as swiftly as possible. In the past decade we have funded varied projects such as the new school library, air conditioning for the main hall, learning tablets, the sensory room, and playground equipment. We also work with the school to identify longer term goals that may benefit the children as the school reaches its full capacity.

We raise money in other ways too. Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items to sell, raffle prizes, auction lots or offers of services and skills. We encourage parents to check whether their employer offers matched giving. You can also take part in our DPS Lottery, also known as the 200 Club, a monthly raffle which is a huge part of our fundraising pool.

What is Charitable Status?

The PTA is a registered charity (charity number 1168403). Charity law requires voluntary organisations such as ours with an annual income in excess of £5,000 to register with the Charities Commission for England and Wales. As a charity we must abide by Charities Commission rules and regulations and we are bound by a governing document referred to as our constitution. Our constitution sets out the rules about how we operate as a PTA and how we conduct ourselves. If you would like to see a copy of the constitution, please contact a Committee member.

Being a registered charity enables the PTA to:

- receive charitable donations from local and national companies
- apply to grant-making charitable trusts; most charitable trusts will give grants only to groups formally recognised as charities
- receive donations made through payroll giving and company matched giving schemes
- apply for Gift Aid.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is usually held in the first term of the academic year and provides an opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about the work of the PTA, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also the occasion when we elect or confirm our new Committee members.

Class Representatives

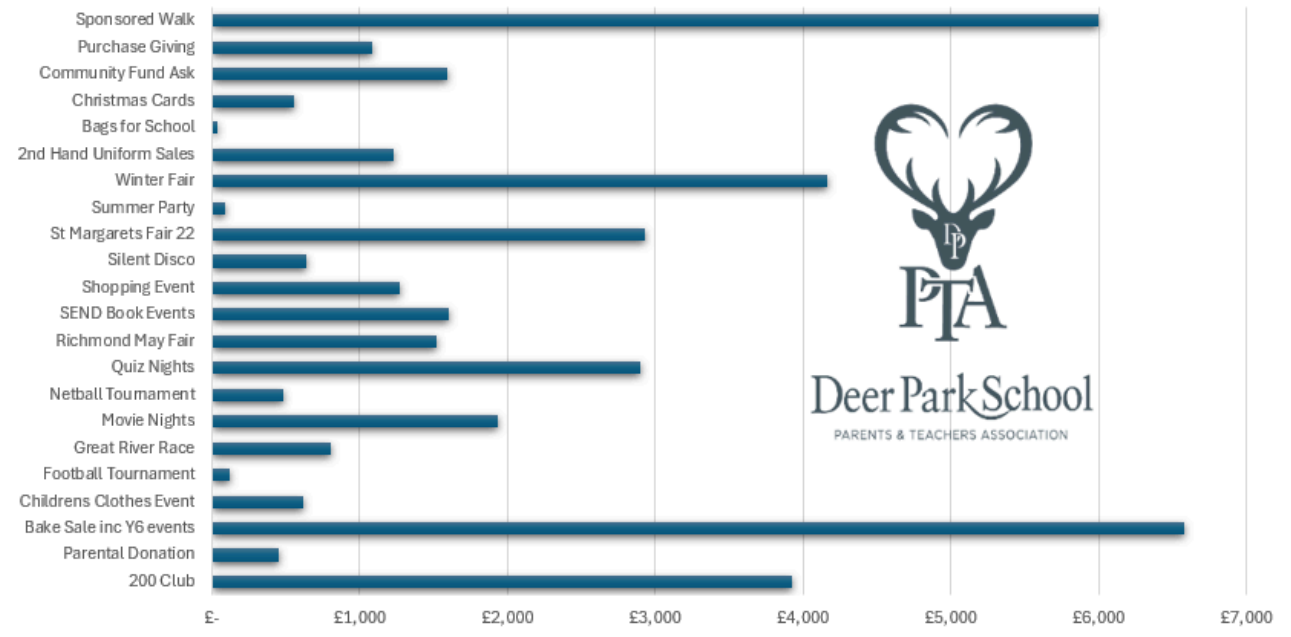
Our class representatives undertake a very important role. There are usually one or two representatives per class who provide a link between individual classes and parents and the PTA Committee. The support from class representatives is vital when it comes to organising our main events from selling tickets to organising rotas of help. We really could not manage without them.

If you are interested in joining the Committee or acting as a class representative or PTA volunteer, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the Committee – more information can be found below.

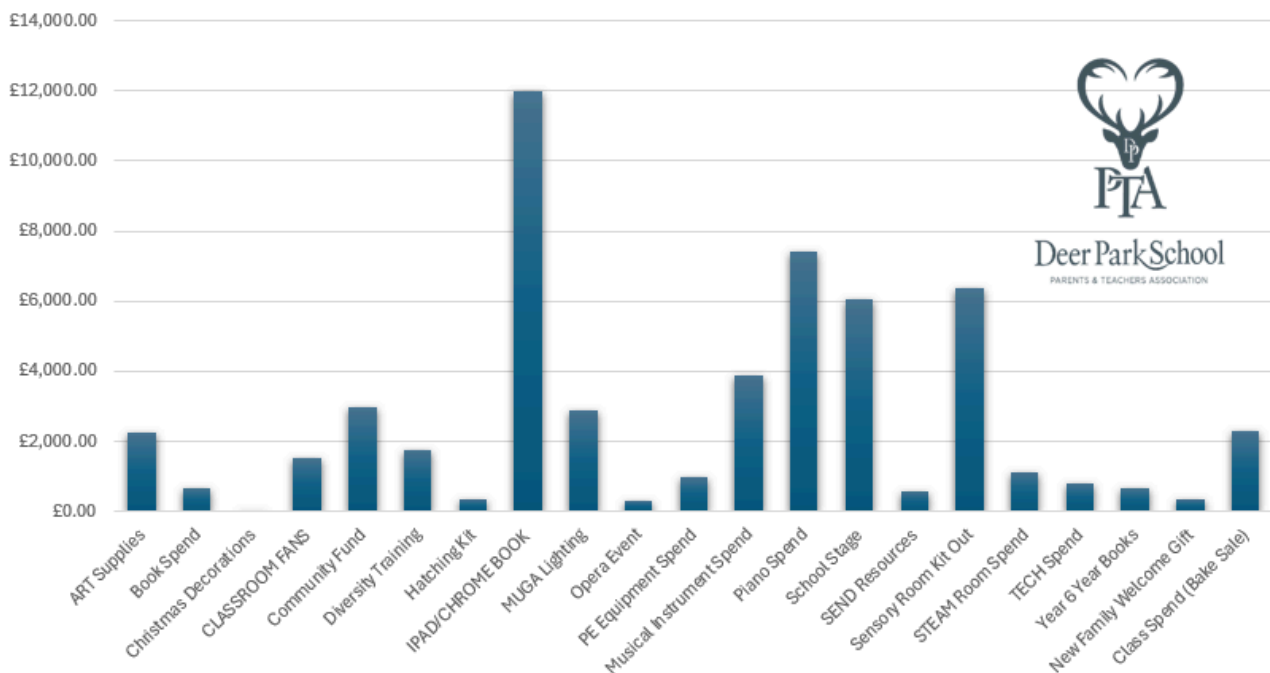
Recent PTA Fundraising and School Spending

Throughout the 2022/23 academic year, we raised nearly £40,000 for the school from a wide variety of activities and events as well as passive fundraising activities. Below is a snapshot of fundraising activities as well as how these funds were spent by the school.

Fundraising Events & Initiatives 2022-23



Deer Park PTA Spending 2022-23



How can I get involved?

There are lots of ways you can help and support the PTA:

1) Volunteer

The value of volunteering your time at events or throughout the year cannot be overstated. It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you cannot physically come into school. There are always jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare, such as wrapping gifts, preparing raffle tickets, submitting external grant applications, asking around for auction prizes, etc. We really couldn't achieve what we do without an army of helpers working behind the scenes.

Throughout the year, the PTA will reach out for help at various events, ranging from baking cakes to chaperoning at movie night, to manning a stall at a fair. These events are also a great way to get to know the wider school community, and many a friendship has been forged pulling pints for thirsty customers!

If you have a little more time to spare, you can volunteer to be a Class Representative or even a Committee Member. Or you can simply speak to us to share your fundraising ideas and support us by attending the annual AGM to ask questions or voice your opinion. In the past year, we have introduced so-called "micro volunteers", to encourage those who might not want an active role on the Committee, but who want to arrange a particular event or have a unique fundraising idea to get involved.

We are always keen to hear from parents or family members who are willing to share (or know someone who is willing to share) their skills with us.

2) Join the DPS Lottery/200 Club

The 200 Club is an easy and low effort way for you to help us raise funds for the school. It is essentially a school lottery.

£5 per month buys one number, which is entered into a monthly draw. 30% of the money raised will be returned in prize money to two winners each month (1st Prize is currently around £90 and 2nd Prize is around £45) and the remainder is donated to the school.

To read the full invitation letter and application form, please go to <https://shorturl.at/fk469>

3) Second-Hand Uniform Sales

The PTA is proud to offer an online second-hand uniform shop. All funds raised go directly to the PTA. This is also a fantastic way to pick up branded uniform items for a substantially lower price, while reducing the amount of clothing that ends up in landfill. To view the shop and order items, go to <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/165>

4) EasyFundraising

Another way to raise money for the school without doing any extra work – or digging into your own pocket – is EasyFundraising. This is a very simple way to raise money for the PTA when you

shop online with certain retailers – do check out the link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dpsptarichmond/> , register and get shopping! The percentages might look small, but EasyFundraising has raised well over £4,000 for the school without costing any parent, grandparent, godparent or staff member a penny (extra)!

5) My NameTags

Another great initiative we benefit from is My NameTags. Reception parents will soon see that items of clothing have a habit of going on adventures during the school day. Make sure you never lose an expensive item of clothing again by labelling everything, and why not help the PTA while you're at it! My NameTags offers great quality labels to stick or iron on to your child's items. Go to www.MyNametags.com and quote our school ID, which is 81503, and the PTA will receive 24% of the cost of your order.

6) Gift Aid

Gift Aid is tax claimed back from HMRC from donations made to us out of your earned income. If you are a UK taxpayer and complete a Gift Aid declaration, we are able to claim an additional 25p for every pound donated, at no extra cost to you.

To complete the declaration, please go to <https://shorturl.at/bcdOW>

7) Company Matched Giving

Company matched giving is very simple. Companies or businesses pledge to donate to a charity such as the PTA an amount of money equivalent to the amount that an employee donates or fundraises for us.

Many employers offer matched giving schemes but very few employees take advantage of them. We strongly encourage all our families to enquire with their employers whether there is an existing scheme in place. If you would like some more information about charity matched giving or setting up a scheme in your workplace, please do speak to the PTA Committee.

A very warm welcome from Deer Park PTA – we look forward to meeting you!