



Hands Up!

The Newsletter for Parents and Teachers at Bowdon Church School

ParticipAte and make a difference. Issue One: Winter 2011

Welcome to the all new Bowdon Church School PTA Newsletter!

We really hope you enjoy reading about our events, successes and projects in a little more detail than in the school's weekly bulletin!

The purpose of this newsletter is to bring you up to date with what's going on in the PTA, to get everyone involved and to support our parent teacher community.

So 'Hands Up' everyone - we really want you to get involved!

All Parents and Teachers at the school are automatically members of the PTA, so you don't have to join.

If you would like to find out more, or can give a little of your talent or time, we'd love to hear from you.

Sharing your thoughts and ideas has never been easier. Speak to your PTA class representative, contact one of the committee, or email the PTA at ptabowdonchurchschool@hotmail.co.uk.

Or 'like' us on Facebook [Bowdon CS PTA], and keep up to date with all the chat.

We want to hear your thoughts on how the PTA spends its money, events you'd like us to run, and hear any other suggestions that you might have.

LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?



Come and join us at our next PTA Committee Meeting, which will be on 11th January 2012 at 7.45pm in the Community Classroom. Everyone's welcome, and we have wine!

Meet the Team

Helen Robinson and Nikki Geddes recently took over as Chair and Vice Chair. We asked them to tell us a little about themselves.

What age are your children, and where what year are in at the School?

Helen - I have three girls: Emily, year 6, Lucy, year 4 and Beth, year 1.

Nikki - My daughter, Alex is in year 6 and my son Will is in year 3.

When did you first put your 'Hands Up' and get involved in the PTA?

Helen - My involvement with the PTA has gone from enjoying the mulled wine so much at the Christmas Fair, that I ended up as part of the organising team for three years, to becoming a serial face painter. I've also helped to organise the Fashion Show.

Nikki - I've been involved with the PTA in many ways since joining the school, from making a fool of myself at the Winter Ball (my personal favourite PTA event), to being part of the Christmas Fair team for the last three years.

What do you hope to achieve in your roles?

Helen - As the new Chair, I hope I can continue the PTA's excellent work. It's about raising money to benefit our children, and have fun in doing so. In terms of what parents can do, getting involved with the PTA's events, whether by attending or helping out, is what we would really like, and it's also a great way of getting to know other parents and the teachers too.

Nikki - At a time when all budgets are under pressure, my aim as Vice Chair is to work with all those involved with the school, to continue to raise money to benefit our children, and to build and maintain a fun and active social community.



Helen Robinson
Chair



Nikki Geddes
Vice Chair



Kath Lovell
Secretary



Mark Simpson
Treasurer



Helen Simpson
Treasurer

It's Iconic!

We want you to know how you can get involved in the PTA, but we know you are busy people, so we have devised a simple system to help you identify which articles you want to read first.

Just look for the icons!



Be Social! One of the best ways to get involved is just to come to one of our events! After all, one of the aims of our PTA is to build a strong school community, and we are all part of the BCS PTA family.



Another way to get involved is to **come to our committee meetings**, because your opinion counts! All Parents and Teachers at the school are automatically members of the PTA, so you don't have to join.



Or why not be a **volunteer?** Give us a little of your time or talent and help us in whatever way you can.

Whether you're a smart organiser, great baker, typist, fundraiser, networker, gardener or handyman, we've got a job for you!

Want to find out more about how you can help? Come along to one of our PTA Meetings, or drop us a line ptabowdonchurchschool@hotmail.co.uk.



Or, if you prefer **just give!** You can do this directly (make a cheque payable to 'Bowdon Church School PTA') or indirectly, if you are an internet shopper. Buy online through our page on the Spend and Raise website (www.spendandraise.com/Bowdoncspta) and the PTA gets a small donation. **Don't forget this when you do your Christmas Shopping :-)!**



Lastly, you can support us by logging on to our **Facebook** page (Bowdon CS PTA) and 'liking' us. Or visit our website at www.bowdoncspta.org.uk to keep up to date with our news and events.



This is our last icon, which shows you how we are spending your money.

Making a Difference ...



Project Playground

The PTA allocated £6,000 from last year's fundraising to enhance the Junior Playground. So, we decided to consult the specialists, and recruited the help of the junior children on the School Council. Supported by various members of the PTA, the children have been given the opportunity to manage this project from beginning to end.

The team are currently very busy researching suppliers and products, and have found some great ideas such as traverse climbing walls, giant chess sets and new fun bins.

They will be presenting all their ideas in a Junior Assembly later this term, when all the children will be able to vote for their favourites.



For those of you not in the know, this is a traverse climbing wall!

WINTER BALL TICKET TANGO!



The PTA Winter Ball will be held at the Cinnamon Club in Bowdon, on Saturday 21st January at 7.30pm.

It's a hugely popular PTA Event, and last year tickets sold out in just **36 hours** - so (for those of you who haven't been before) this is just a little warning to say that you might like to think about getting your table of twelve people together now.

When the forms come out, you'll need to get them back into the PTA silver box, together with the money that you have collected, very quickly indeed. Tables are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, and are sure to be in hot demand!

ParticipAte and make a difference.

Christmas Fair Plug!



As always, the Christmas Fair promises to be a fun filled day!

The Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday 3rd December 12-3pm.

As always it promises to be a fun filled day! Mulled wine and turkey sandwiches should get you in the mood, and there's hot dogs for the kids too.

New this year is the **Gardening Club stall**, where you can buy bulbs and fabulous, gardening related gifts.

There's lots of other opportunities to shop for Christmas too, with a handful of **specially selected stallholders** selling unique Christmas wreaths, decorations and gifts.

Some of these are run by parents at the school, so please come and support them all, as they will each be giving a share of their profits to the PTA. And this year you will even be able to buy for that special one in your life - yes, we have a **pet stall** selling gifts and goodies for your favourite pet (what do you buy for a goldfish!)

Father Christmas will be there in his grotto, and children (no adults allowed!) can visit the **Secret Santa stall** to buy gifts for their family,

and take it away already gift wrapped. Fabulous!

Star themed crafts, adult and chocolate tombolas, games and so much more - you cannot miss this event!

Buy your **Christmas tree** at the fair, and your **Christmas cards** too - all supplied by ex-pupils who are raising money to participate in the World Challenge trip, to help communities in Argentina.

Don't miss out if you can't make it to the fair - call James on 0161 973 2255 to order your tree, and see Mrs Brierley for the fantastic Christmas cards, featuring local, winter scenes.

The winner of the school Christmas Fair poster competition will be announced in school this week. Keep an eye out for posters in Hale and Altrincham - they are fantastic.

Don't forget, if you want to **volunteer** to help out on the day, contact your PTA class representative who is keeping a list of helpers.

We can't wait, and we know 'yule' enjoy it too! Ho ho ho!!

It seems a little early to be Christmassy - but here's a little tree to keep us going!



That's what it's all about! What a lovely shot of the Autumn Walk, organised by the PTA last September. Check out the PTA Website for more photos!

2011/09/17



MAKE A LITTLE CHANGE TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE?

Did you know you can help to raise money for the PTA by **doing your internet shopping through the Spend and Raise website?**

The PTA will earn commission from all registered retailers (eg. John Lewis, M&S, ELC, Mothercare, Amazon etc) every time you shop and the prices to you remain unchanged.

Either log in through the PTA site or directly at www.spendandraise.com/Bowdoncspta.

Strong Enough Constitution?

It seems that the Royals aren't the only ones with their eyes on the Constitution.

The PTA is a registered charity, and therefore has a constitution which helps the committee members (or trustees) govern the organisation.

It contains a range of information and powers to assist the trustees, and reflects the purpose of the PTA, and the activities that it can and cannot undertake to fulfil its aims.

Although our existing constitution has served us well in the past, it's now time to bring it up to date. We are intending to adopt the PTA-UK model constitution, which has received approval from the Charity Commission.

This is the quickest, easiest and most effective way to ensure that our founding documents reflect the integrity, control and best practices required for the modern PTA.

To conform with the legal requirements of the new constitution, we will need to re-establish the PTA's formal decision making process.

In the future, there will be eight elected trustees who will sanction all decisions on behalf of the members (that's you and I).

To change the constitution, there needs to be an

Extraordinary general meeting which will be held on Thursday 24th November at 8.00pm at School.

At the meeting, four new trustees will be proposed (alongside the existing roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and one of our Treasurers).

If you are interested in becoming one of the additional trustees, please visit the PTA website to find out how (visit bowdoncspta.org.uk and click on the PTA news icon). You will be able to access a copy of the new constitution, additional information about the roles and responsibilities of trustees and a nominee form, should you wish to stand for election.

If you have any queries, Helen, Nikki or Kath would be delighted to hear from you, and you can contact them at ptabowdonchurchschool@hotmail.co.uk.



Upcoming Events

Saturday 3rd December
Christmas Fair
12-3pm

Saturday 21st January
Winter Ball
7.30pm, Cinnamon Club, Bowdon

Thursday 2nd February
Quiz Night

TBC March
Fashion Show

Thursday 17th May
Bags 2 School

TBC May
Car Boot Sale

TBC April / May
Family Fun Run

Saturday 30th June
Summer Fair
12-3pm

TBC July
Camping Night



Just for Kids!...

**HA! HA!
VERY FUNNY!**

Q: "What's the longest table in school?"

A: "The multiplication table!"

Q: "What did you learn in school today?"

A: "Not enough, I have to go back tomorrow!"

Participate and make a difference.