



Charity No.: 296361

The Woodside Association- Woodside Junior School PTA

Chairs' Report
for Annual General Meeting
on 16th October 2024

The Woodside Association is a Parent Teacher Association with charitable status, with a committee. The committee meets regularly, online and in-person, with school staff and parents warmly welcomed to attend. Thanks go to Mrs Tandara, Mr Appleby and Mr Lloyd for regular attendance from school staff. Thanks also to Catherine Wright and all our school Year Representatives who communicate messages and updates to the school community, and Chris Boobier who manages our Classlist account for communication.

All proceeds from events are used to enhance the educational experience of our children.

It has been another very positive year for the Woodside Association. There have been many successful fundraisers, including the ever-popular summer and Christmas raffles, non-uniform days, second hand uniform sales and Bag2School collections. The use of SumUp for payments, stripe payments over Classlist, QR codes at events as well as the JustGiving platform have again been valuable tools to help. Funds continue to be raised via Easy Fundraising, the School Lottery and voucher scheme. Our thanks go to Kate Wagstaff, who has been running the voucher scheme, and Kate Dinwiddy for managing the school lottery. Special thanks to both Mira Pitkin and Alexandra Fernandes for securing match funding from their employers, which has made an enormous difference to our totals.

We have continued to support Chiltern Foodbank via regular collections (co-ordinated by Chloe Cripps) and have received thanks for these.

Most of our fundraising efforts contributed to the renovation of the school library, which was officially opened by Mr Lloyd and Cllr. Dominic Pinkney, the Mayor of Amersham, in June. The library is a bright, spacious and inviting space, complete with new furniture, a 'check-in' desk and fully stocked shelving, and has been a great hit with the children. Special thanks to Catherine Wright for managing this project, to Mr Appleby for facilitating the work, and to both Catherine and Kate Wagstaff for cataloguing and organising the many thousands of books! Thanks also to Szabolcs Vati of S23 Construction who kindly provided his services for free, and Amersham Dec who donated the paint.

The Summer Fair was held in June and, despite moving the event indoors due to the rain, was a successful, enjoyable event. The Christmas Cheer was also well attended, with positive feedback from the school community. Both events were an important way for families to get together and celebrate our school whilst raising funds.

Further events during the year included the spring quiz night (many thanks to Phil, a Woodside parent, for his time, energy and humour). Thanks also to everyone who collaborated and made this event possible—it was a great evening.

A quiz bingo was held in May for the children and was a great success, selling 78 tickets. The children also enjoyed a school disco in autumn, always a much-loved and well attended event.

Mr Lloyd regularly attends PTA meetings to discuss funding requests. Regulars include the funding of Christmas Crackers for the children to have at the end of term and funding of the Year 6 Leavers Books. We have also gifted the children a personalised Christmas decoration for the past two years. “One-offs” this year have included funding an Escape Room activity for all students, purchasing parasols, lights and new djembe drums.

Thanks to Laura Sawyer for booking the ice cream van, our much-enjoyed treat for the children and staff at the end of the year.

Our future projects include replacing old and outdated IT equipment in each classroom, including introducing adequate sound systems and new interactive monitors, enabling teachers to more effectively deliver technology-dependent curriculum while providing the best support to the students.

Our thanks go to all the current PTA members, parents and members of staff of the Woodside community, who have attended events and meetings; helped with the preparation and clear up of events; performed administrative tasks and assisted us throughout the year; and who have been able to spread the word about PTA events and support us and the school, by doing so.

Michelle Catanach
The Woodside Association (Woodside PTA)