

# Great Wood PTA Update October 2020

Earlier this week I met with Mr Ross to see how, as a PTA, we can best support the school during these COVID related times. With the prospect of restrictions only getting tighter before they are eased off, the chance of the PTA doing anything within school before Easter is highly unlikely, unfortunately.

This will be particularly tough on those in Reception who have not had chance to participate in the Welcome BBQ or their first School Disco (Halloween). It cannot be much fun for those in Year 6 either who should be enjoying all these fun events for their last time either. Hopefully, their Leavers' Party will still be able to take place, which the PTA also help to fund. We are still planning The Big Summer Raffle and our Summer Music Festival, however we do not want to financially commit to any bookings yet.

Due primarily to the success of last years Sponsored Walk the PTA bank balance is healthy. I have recently informed you about a request of £380 from Miss Dixon to fund some books to tie in with the pupil's mental health and wellbeing topic and we have now had a request from Mr Ross. He has asked us to pay for an interactive screen and install it in the mini hall, which will allow the mobile one currently used in there to be freed up. The cost for this screen is approximately £2200 and it will keep up the PTA's proud tradition of being able to fund a new screen every year in the 6 years Kerry Weaving and I have been involved.

Mr Ross tells me that as technology improves there are some ideas brewing for watching the wildlife in the woods remotely and this is perhaps something that we will support when asked. It has been good to hear of the children using the dipping platform completed just before lockdown.

Kerry is currently organising a Virtual Book Fair, in conjunction with Usborne Books. During this promotion Great Wood will benefit from every book purchased. More details of the online book sale will be given once this has been finalised, so if you are thinking of buying family members a book from Christmas please wait until we post the link! The PTA are busy thrashing out ideas about what else we will be able to do for the children moving into 2021.

Mr Ross has also asked for the PTA to support the building of a semi-permanent path from the Huntley Close entrance across the grass. This is to assist the parents and children of Years 2 and 3, who currently use that entrance to help with social distancing rules at "drop off" and "pick up". The current arrangement relies on rubber matting which unfortunately is not proving up to the job.

Whereas the PTA do not see this as something that we should fully fund ourselves we are more than happy to help, where we can, as a request funding the project has been made to the Council. We are therefore asking if there are any parents who would be ready, willing and able to assist in building this path (approx. 20 metres) over the next few weeks. It would need some turf and soil removing, hardcore laying then a topcoat put down.

Normally we would try and arrange a works party, like we have successfully done for other projects around the school like the two play areas we have resurfaced with "parent power", but unfortunately social distancing rules won't allow a united effort. The PTA, therefore, are asking if there is anyone with the necessary skills or equipment that could help the school to keep the costs to a minimum? Please let either the School Office, Mr Ross or I know if you can assist in any way.

Next Friday each child will be sent home with a "scary treat" to celebrate Halloween and half term, this is just a little way of us thanking the children for their socially distanced efforts this half term and is a small token of compensation for not being able to have a Disco.

Thank you to all of you who have supported our personalised Christmas Card project or advertised in the calendar and to Kerry Weaving for organising, again. Stay safe and have an enjoyable half term.

Mark.