



The PSALMS AGM and Committee Newsletter October 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new academic year at Little Missenden School, what a joyful return it is back to school after an unsettling time for all the children. To all parents, new and old, we hope the children have settled in and are enjoying being back at school.

Our newsletter today will hopefully provide some information on what the committee plan to do amid the new restrictions with regards to fundraising, how you can all support this and inform you of some of the fun things we have planned.

So what is PSALMS?

'Parents and Supporters at Little Missenden School', PSALMS is a registered charity to which all parents are affiliated when their children join the school. The aim of PSALMS is to raise funds to provide activities and equipment, which enhance our children's early school experiences. We work closely with staff, governors and parents to achieve this. Whilst a committee does exist, we need help from as many parents as possible to support the school.

The PSALMS AGM and the New Committee

We would like to thank all those who were able to join the PSALMS AGM meeting on 11th September 2020, which was held at Little Missenden Church. We would also like to extend our thanks to the outgoing members of the committee for their hard work over the last year in co-ordinating some amazing fundraising events for the school, and welcome the new committee members.

Fundraising Past and Present

Last year, PSALMS raised an impressive £6,150 despite not being able to hold the Summer Fete, which is typically the biggest fundraiser. £5,511 was spent on activities and equipment for the school leaving a balance of £5,442 in the PSALMS account.

Given the current situation, raising much needed funds for our brilliant school is going to have to be approached very differently this year. Where we would normally have had the Summer Fete and had preparations in place for the Christmas Bizarre, involving the whole and wider community, these will sadly not be taking place in the same format. The previous fundraising methods for these special events, will be missed not only for the spirit and joy that they bring, but also the amount of funds that they raise. This will sadly be the case for the frequent bake sales too.

Therefore, more than ever, to keep the extra-curricular activities going for our children and keep improving the school for them, we will be fundraising in other ways. Let's all collectively work together in making sure our children don't miss out and with the smaller scale events that we are able to put on, let's remember that the money we are raising is for so much more than just putting on that event.

In light of this, we are having to get creative. We urge parents to donate as much as they can to continue supporting the activities our children have gotten so much enjoyment out of, they need that more than ever. We want to make sure that resources continue to be available, enhancing the children's learning and enjoyment of school. Regardless of what is happening in the world, we would like the children to feel the impact of the changes as little as possible and so together with Mrs Green, the teachers and all of your support, we will be constantly looking for different ways to ensure the children are enjoying special upcoming events without losing the excitement of them.

On these special events, we may be asking for a slightly more generous contribution than previous years but please bear in mind that all of the money generated from all the events, go towards funding

the bigger projects. With a reduction in what we can do socially and without the ability to fundraise, the school would not be able to continue funding projects such as chef, forest school and the long-term projects of a new outside play space for the Reception area.

What will PSALMS be paying for this academic year?

- ★ Chef - cooking at school with the children
- ★ Wellbeing afternoons
- ★ Forest School
- ★ Contributing towards the new outside play space for the Reception area
- ★ Activities each term to support curriculum learning
- ★ Christmas Party
- ★ TV License

Plans for this term

★ **23rd October 2020 – Mufti-Day** ‘There’s a monster in your classroom!’ Mini-monster mufti day where children can dress up in their favourite monster costume for a donation to PSALMS. Best costume competition will be held per class and prizes given. Please donate generously!

★ **Movie nights** are back with popcorn, marshmallows and hot chocolate (Date TBC)

★ **Outdoor Christmas market** at school (Date TBC)

How can you help?

There are many ways, small and large, in which you, your families and supporters of the school can help. Three Easy Ways to help...

➤ **Easyfundraising**

Literally money back for shopping online! If you’re buying something on Amazon, John Lewis, Booking.com, eBay, M&S, Waitrose - to name a few of 4,000 popular online stores - please do it via Easyfundraising. No info about your purchases will ever be shared, but every time you buy something, the retailer will send PSALMS a free donation. We’ve already raised over £2,500 this way! Please go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/psalms/> and click ‘support us’ and please also download and enable the ‘Donation Reminder’ toolbar which highlights when a donation is available on shopping sites.

➤ **Amazon Wish List**

The wish list contains equipment and crafting resources that your children and the teachers can benefit from. Please take a look next time you are doing an Amazon order. Items can be delivered directly to the school. https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/PHW3LO716PEB?ref =wl_share

➤ **Amazon Sign-ups**

PSALMS is an Amazon Associate and we get paid for any new trial sign ups using the below links:

Amazon Prime – we earn £3 for anyone that signs up for the Amazon Prime 30-day Free Trial using this link <http://www.amazon.co.uk/tryprimefree?tag=p0c2f-21> Just in time for Prime Day which is 13th - 14th October!

Amazon Kids+ – we earn £3 for anyone using the below link who signs up for the Free Trial or 3-Month Family Plan. Amazon Kids+ gives you endless access to thousands of kid-friendly books, movies, TV shows, educational apps, and games <https://www.amazon.co.uk/trynow?tag=p0c2f-21>

Other ways you can Donate or Support the School

If you wish you could do more but don’t have the time, then we would be delighted if you could consider one of the following:

- Donating at all organised events.
- A monthly standing order payable into the PSALMS account. Forms are available via the school

office.

- A one-off donation to sponsor an event cost or towards a new shed or an improved play area.
- Employee Matching – parents who help fundraise or donate can get their employers to match their efforts as we are a charity (Parents and Supporters of Little Missenden School (PSALMS), Charity No 1075036).
- If you know of any small businesses or benefactors that may wish to help the school financially, we would welcome their support.

Please also spread the word on how wonderful our little school is to prospective parents considering where their child starts their school life and indeed the nursery - where places are available after a child's 3rd birthday.

Get in Touch

We welcome any feedback or ideas you wish to share to help us make the PSALMS community as successful as it has been over the years. Please reach out to any member of the committee or email us at psalms.committee@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to this wonderful school. Lets keep it great!

The PSALMS Committee.