



2nd December 2018

Dear Parents, Staff & Governors,

Thank you for coming along to the Fair – we hope you enjoyed it! We have a few bits and pieces still to come in but we're delighted to announce this year's Christmas Fair has so far raised:

£12,500 !!!

Our fairs are big events, take months to prepare and we rely on a network of people, working well in advance and right up until the 11th hour to create an afternoon we can all enjoy.

FOOD Gill Gunbey co-ordinated Food along with Raihaanah Ahmed. Another delicious offering this year! Thanks to Sadaf Tayaab for cooking the rice and to Katie Ellegard who slipped in the rain fetching the chicken curry! Warburton's donated some of the hot dog buns, Wenzels the Baker donated 100 mince pies we enjoyed with the mulled wine. Pruden's Bakery donated 100 doughnuts, Bookers Cash & Carry provided crisps & lollies, Herts Fruit & Veg gave potatoes and oranges and M&S Marshalswick donated biscuits. Christina Smith arranged for left-over food items to be given to Christ Church Food Bank.

STALLS Ewa Riches looked after our stalls and external sellers. We had more sellers than before - hope you enjoyed having a browse! Ewa is also PTA Treasurer, a huge job in itself throughout the year and super busy on fair day. Thanks to Rachel Lynch (ex-Treasurer) who came back to help for the day even though she is no longer a parent at the school! Ably assisted by Mark & Zachary Riches.

SILENT AUCTION, GRAND DRAW, HAMPER RAFFLE Suzanne Brooks & Raihaanah Ahmed co-ordinated. With over 80 lots, our online Silent Auction raised £3,000 alone! Very pleased with the online site and will use it again.

GROTTO Thanks for visiting us, Santa! Nicola Fewkes did an amazing job on the Grotto again this year. It takes a full day to set up!

SPONSORSHIP Thank you to Matt Niel (MLC Project Management), Anny Hooper (PHP Services), Eimear Andersen (Tantor) and to Beechcroft for their generous donations when our estate agent withdrew their support at the last minute! Thanks also to Mrs Brewer of Brewer Dance Academy for once again sponsoring the printing of our Grand Draw tickets with a £100 donation.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Raihaanah Ahmed and Al Haque (GFS parents who own The Meating Room on Catherine Street and in Berkhamstead) who reached out to their business contacts and sourced many of the auction & raffle lots. And for making 300 lamb and veggie samosas by hand! Raihaanah also arranged for our printing to be donated and both she and her father made and donated the chicken curry.

GRAPHIC DESIGN Huge thanks to Joel van Blerk for designing our brochure and posters.

PERFORMANCES Miss Wray co-ordinated with help from **Anjali & Bruno D’Ambra** and **Mrs Johnson**. The children were fantastic in their performances – well done to all of you!

‘MEN OF FIELDS’ DADS’ CRICKET TEAM were impeccable hosts at the bar! We upped the mulled wine from last year – and it was still drained by 2pm! Dads’ cricket offer support at many events we host during the year. If you’re interested in joining, do get in touch.

PHOTOGRAPHY **Stephanie Belton** took photos as a memento of the afternoon; these will be checked by the office and then made available to view – coming soon!

Thanks to **Mr Farrugia** and **Miss Cole** who gave support in advance of the fair and were there helping on the day. Big thank you to **all the staff** who made time to help set up on Friday and were there during the fair! Our Chair of Governors, **Peter Jones**, greeted visitors at the entrance for the later part of the fair and Governors **Rebecca Veitch**, **Kate Cohen**, **Ceri Chaudry**, **Nicola Dale** and **Sunny Grewal** volunteered on the day.

Extra special thank you **Mr de Bruin** and **Mr Fryer** who help constantly all year round and who are normally there from 8am until 6pm every fair. In addition, **Mrs de Bruin** and **Kiandra** and **Valentina** are there all day to help prepare, volunteer and clear up! **Mrs Dicks** and **Mrs Merridan** also help us throughout the year.

FACE PAINTING Our elite squad outdid themselves yet again! Thanks to Mei Li, Beatrice Alix, Maud van de Stadt, EY Lafferty, Anny Hooper, Sarah Clarke, Jools Hill, Kat Lourenco. If you’d like to join the team ahead of the May Fair, please get in touch: pta@gardenfields.herts.sch.uk

YOU! Our volunteers are too numerous to mention but whether you helped in advance, set up, volunteered at the fair, cleared up afterwards or came along to enjoy the day – please know we are so grateful! We cannot do what we do without your support.

£100 CASH PRIZE – **Ann Rogers** – congratulations!

GOLDEN BUCKET **Gemma Baillie** had the golden ticket, winning half the contents: £83.50.

MYSTERY BAGS

BATCHWOOD - 106 bags

WAVERLEY – 103

HARPENDEN – 99

TOWNSEND – 88

SO CLOSE! Well done **BATCHWOOD** - third fair in a row! **Evie Toal** your 30 bags and **Alex Haywood** your 25 bags made all the difference for Batchwood!

CAKE COMPETITION Great initiative from our House Captains! We were blown away by the number of cakes and cupcakes – and by the thought and effort that had clearly gone into creating them. Thank you to everyone who took part – you will each receive 5 mini merits for entering (no entry was disqualified). The individual winners by house were:

Batchwood - Tia Powell-Gill

Harpenden – Anna Foster

Townsend – Holly and Samuel Brooks

Waverley – Lewis and Samuel Norton

The overall house winners were:

- 1st **Batchwood** - 30 house points
- 2nd **Harpenden** – 20 house points
- 3rd **Townsend** – 10 house points
- 4th **Waverley** – 5 house points

CONTAINERS are waiting for collection on the table in the Reception area in front of the School Office. Please collect no later than this **Friday 7th**. After that, they will be disposed of as there is unfortunately no room to store them.

REMAINING PTA EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

Our remaining events for this school year are as follows. Please make sure they are in your calendar!

- 9 Dec Panto at the Arena
- 13 Dec Santa Dash & Cake Sale
- 15 Dec Charity Parking at AECOM

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- 9 Jan PTA meeting, 7:45pm. All welcome!
- 18 Jan Disco
- 8 Feb Quiz Night - Parents & Staff
- 11-15 Feb Wellbeing Week - PTA cafe
- 9 Mar Family Photo Day with Stephanie Belton
- 15 Mar Comic Relief Mud Run & Cake Sale (3.30pm to 4.30pm)
- 15 Mar Film Night
- 25 Mar PTA Meeting, 7:45pm. All welcome!
- 29 Mar Mothers Day Sale
- 1 May PTA Meeting, 7:45pm. All welcome!
- 17 May Set Up for the May Fair
- 18 May May Fair
- 9 June Fun Run at the Half Marathon
- 14 June Fathers Day Sale (1pm-3pm)
- 14 June Disco (from 3:30pm)
- 21 June International Food Festival
- 24 June PTA Meeting, 7:45pm. All welcome!
- 25 June New Parents Meeting
- 9 July Sports Day - EYFS & KS1
- 10 July Sports Day - KS2
- 11 July New Parents 'Stay & Play' (1:30pm-3pm)

Don't forget to keep up with **Alf the Elf's** daily shenanigans – only on the PTA BLOG. Make sure you're signed up as the kids will want to know! <https://gardenfieldspta.wordpress.com>

See you at the Panto next week! Oh yes we will!

your PTA