

Deansfield Parents Association - Newsletter October 2020

Dear Parent & Carers,

Welcome to those of you who are new to the school. The Deansfield Parents Association (DPA) helps to raise money to benefit all children at the school. Throughout the year we will be running fundraising activities and anyone with a child at Deansfield can get involved. We really appreciate any help that you can offer.



For the time being, our fundraising events and activities will be a bit different from usual, to fit in with current government guidelines. We will need a creative and fresh approach to raising money and we hope that everyone will engage with what we are planning and let us know if you have any good ideas too.

In the past few years, the DPA, with your support, has raised around **£7,000 each year** for the school to spend on **playground equipment, climbing frames, AstroTurf, books for reading corners and IT equipment**. Without these much-needed funds the school may not have been able to provide these extras for our children to enjoy in school. Last school year our fundraising activities were cut short in March and so we were not able to achieve the kind of fundraising totals that we have in previous years. The money raised last year will go towards the refurbishment of the ICT room in due course. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Thank you, also, to those who attended our recent zoom meeting with Mrs Daly and Mrs Hugget. The meeting generated some fantastic and fun ideas for children and adults and we really hope that you will enjoy getting involved. We will let you know what is happening and when and what the proceeds will go towards, via the Friday Flyer, on the school website and on Facebook here www.facebook.com/DeansfieldDPA/.

Our first fundraising venture this year will be for children to design their own **Christmas cards**. A letter will be sent out, before half term, to explain what to do and how to order. All artwork will need to be returned to school straight after half term please. This is a great, creative half term activity for children to do at home. They make lovely cards for family members, which may be especially well received this year.

After half term we will be holding our **AGM** online. Details will be advertised in the Friday Flyer and everyone is welcome to attend. We are especially looking for people to come along who would like to be a class representative this year. **Class reps** help to inform their classes about planned events and activities and help to engage and encourage participation and also attend DPA meetings and get involved in planning and sharing ideas. Each class needs to have at least one rep, but the more people that would like to get involved in this way the better. Please look out for details of the AGM and come along to become a class rep, you can also let us know if you are interested by emailing us at DPAdansfield@gmail.com.

At the AGM the **DPA committee** roles will also be up for re-election. Currently there are 3 members of the DPA committee; Tracy (finance), Magda (secretarial), Kellie (comms). We would like to continue to serve on the committee to bring continuity and would love to expand the committee to include additional people. We are especially looking for someone to be our Chairperson and a key member of the team, who will liaise with the school and wider DPA group. We also really need help with becoming a charity and we are looking for someone who could focus on this specifically. If you have time to look into it or any experience with this then please get in touch, we would be very grateful. Any of the roles can be shared by more than one person, so please let us know if you are interested in helping out in this way. All committee members attend DPA meetings, contribute towards fundraising planning and take part in running activities, along with their own focused tasks. The main criteria for committee members is to be enthusiastic and have some time to give. We hope to see you at the AGM.

In the meantime, please sign up to **Easy Fundraising** www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/deansfieldpa/ just click the 'support this cause' button and the site will take you through the process. Once registered donations will be made to the DPA as you shop online as normal, just start your shopping journey at easyfundraising.org.uk. So, for example, for every online Sainsbury's order 50p is automatically donated to the DPA through the scheme and it doesn't cost you anything. Many retailers are included, like Argos, M&S, John Lewis, Tesco, and even Just Eat. Our new account has already raised £33.40, every little helps, as they say, and it is something that we can all do for free. Please also share this with grandparents, childminders, neighbours and wider family, along with any information on DPA fundraising activities, as we would like to include our wider community where possible.

Best wishes from your DPA