**NEWSLETTER Spring 2012**

Happy New Year! This spring edition of the Thornhill School PTA Newsletter brings news of the events from the run up to Christmas and details of events planned for Spring 2012. First, news of the money raised so far this school year and the purchases made by the PTA for the children.

### Money raised to date:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cinema Evenings</td>
<td>£700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Cards</td>
<td>£540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales and West Donation</td>
<td>£300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags2School</td>
<td>£420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Bakesale</td>
<td>£180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Shopping Night</td>
<td>£380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Fayre</td>
<td>£1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Bakesale</td>
<td>£130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Disco</td>
<td>£560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Uniform Day</td>
<td>£294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total raised £5694**

### Christmas Fayre

Our thanks to all children, families and staff who made our Christmas Fayre such a success, raising £2,150.

We are particularly grateful to the large number of volunteers whose time and hard work made it all happen.

A special mention must go to our Yr 6 "Young Apprentices" who raised over £200 with their recycled gifts and hard selling!

As usual Father Christmas and his helpers ensured that a magical time was had by all in the beautifully decorated grotto and it was lovely for the children to have a photograph to remember the experience.

This year we combined old and new - much loved games and some new ones thrown in; the traditional Grand Raffle and the new Hamper Auction; the ever popular toy stall and the bang up-to-date Wii Challenge. Something for everyone!

So we hoped you enjoyed the afternoon and we look forward to seeing you all again at the Spring Fayre!

### Big Jubilee Lunch — Sunday 3rd June 2012

The fourth annual Big Lunch will fall on the same weekend as the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and as announced by Buckingham Palace, The Big Jubilee Lunch will be a part of the main programme of events over the central weekend of Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June 2012.

A special 4-day Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday - Sat 2nd to Tuesday 5th June - will take place so, in conjunction with the Thornhill Centre, we are going to host a Thornhill Big Jubilee Lunch on Sun 3rd June. Some 10 million people came out in sunny 1977 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee so its hoped a large number of people will take part in The Big Lunch for the first time in 2012 - joining the well over a million that have been doing it for the last 3 years!

A Big Lunch can be anything from just a few neighbours getting together in the street or a garden to a full blown community event with music, games and lots of fun!

The beauty of The Big Lunch is that people themselves decide everything about their own event - so we're thinking of a big community picnic open to everyone in Thornhill. With all the other events being planned by the PTA this year we are looking for a small group of volunteers to take on the organisation of the Big Jubilee Lunch, working with the Thornhill Centre, to plan the day. If you are interested in putting on this fun-filled community event contact us via the PTA mailbox or email thornhillpta@hotmail.co.uk

### PTA Meetings

Since the last newsletter there have been two PTA meetings; 7th November and 5th December; two informal committee meetings and a Christmas Fayre planning meeting.

For a copy of the minutes, please email thornhillpta@hotmail.co.uk

**Next PTA Meeting:**

Wednesday 1st February

5:30pm—6:30pm

School Staff Room

### Bags2School

Following on from the success of our first Bags2School collection, we have organised a collection for January. Bags can be dropped at school from 9am on Wed 18th Jan to 12pm on Fri 20th Jan.

Based on feedback from the last collection we have also arranged an evening drop-off session, so if you have several bags to donate you can bring them in your car to the school from 3:30—7:30 on Wed 18th Jan.

### Curry and Quiz Night

26th January is the PTA Curry and Quiz Night, a night out for parents at The Pendragon. It starts at 7:30pm and tickets are £8 which includes a curry, first drink and entry to the quiz.

Quiz teams are a maximum of 6 people and there are prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, so swot up on your general knowledge and come and join in.

**Up and coming events**

- **Bake Sale : Year 2**
  - 11th January

- **Bags2 School**
  - 18-20 January

- **Bake Sale : Year 4**
  - 25th January

- **Curry and Quiz Night**
  - 26th January

- **Bake Sale : Year 3**
  - 8th February

- **Non Uniform Day**
  - 10th February

- **Bake Sale : Year 5**
  - 22nd February

- **Cinema Night**
  - Infants: 28th February
  - Juniors: 29th February
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**Christmas Shopping Evening**

The Christmas Shopping Night on 17th November was a new event for the PTA. Attendance at the event was fantastic and every available space was packed with as many stalls as we could fit in. The total raised by event was £380, which included the entry fee, stall holders fee and raffle takings. Feedback from those who attended was very positive and this is definitely an event to repeat! Taking on board your comments at the next shopping night we will be looking to include more stalls offering a wide variety of products.

**Carols by Candlelight**

The ‘Carols by Candlelight’ at the Thornhill Church Centre in December was a particularly special event. The hall was packed to capacity and the choir and orchestra did a fantastic job. This event was arranged to help bring the school and the wider community together. It was not intended as a fundraising event, however we did raise £40 from refreshments sales. Our thanks to Thornhill Church Centre, Mrs Holcombe and the children of the Choir and Orchestra for all their hard work.

**Mothers Day Gift Sale**

On 8th March we will be holding a Mothers Day Gift Sale at 3-30, after school. This will give the children an opportunity to purchase or order cards and gifts, such as flowers and plants, cakes and chocolates, jewellery and much more.

We are aiming to keep the price of gifts affordable for the children to be able to buy their mums their own gifts. If any parents / friends would like a stall to sell their gifts / products, please contact a PTA committee member or e-mail thornhillpta@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

**Fundraising events organised by the PTA are enjoyed by the children and their families and in turn raise funds for school equipment that otherwise would not have be available to the school. In summary, all the children benefit from both the event and the money raised. To enable this to happen we rely on volunteers, at some events we have had some great help (e.g. cancellation of the Christmas Junior Disco). It is unfortunately, only a small percentage of parents that regularly volunteer to help. If one parent per child were to volunteer just 30 minutes at one event in the entire school year, we would have more than enough help to support all the events. Would you be prepared to commit just 30 minutes of your time at our major events? (Christmas and Spring Fayre, Disco and BBQ) Over the whole school year that’s just 2 hours! Or if you have free time in the day, could you help with preparation or offer a specialist skill such as carpentry to make new games, or website design?

**How would you like to volunteer?**

- Attend PTA Meetings
- Volunteer to organise an event
- Volunteer to set up / clear up an event
- Help run a stall
- Serve on a subcommittee
- Donate raffle prizes
- Volunteer a specialist skill (e.g. photography, D.J., etc.)

Please specify skill:

Any other way? Please specify:

Sign up for:
- PTA Meetings
- Other volunteer activities

**Please return via:**
- Thornhillpta@hotmail.co.uk

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**Bake Sales**

The Bake Sales have proved to be popular and well supported by all the children. Dates for up and coming Bake Sales are as follows: Year 2 11th Jan and Year 5 22nd Feb.

The children decide on what their years bake sale funds are spent on. For example, Year 1 are having new games and dressing up costumes. Please support each sale by giving your child 50p on the day of the sale and by bringing cakes when it is your child’s year group sale.

**St Patricks Days Disco**

March 16th will be a St Patricks Days Family Disco. It will take place from 5:30—8pm and will be a combined for Infants and Juniors. Ticket requests will be sent out after half term.

**The PTA are conducting a survey to gather parents opinions on the work of the PTA and the events we organise. We aim to offer a wide variety of events to appeal to all children and parents alike. Although we have some feedback from parents and teachers who volunteer or know us, we are hoping from the survey to get a wider picture of parents opinions. Therefore we would very much appreciate if you would complete the questionnaire! Thanks**

**Questionnaire**

**Please return via:**
- Thornhillpta@hotmail.co.uk

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**Please return via:**
- Your child’s class
- The PTA Mailbox in the School Foyer or e-mail to thornhillpta@hotmail.co.uk