



THE SOHO SCOOP

News and Views from Soho Parish



Headline

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. The days may be drawing in and there's a chill in the air, but inside Soho Parish we are as full of life as midsummer's day! The disco last night was a perfect example of this in action and we are most grateful to the dedicated and enthusiastic PTA committee and all the parent and staff volunteers who made it happen. What a genuinely fun occasion for children and adults, beautifully organised and run. Well done everyone! Please see overleaf for the many more exciting PTA initiatives coming up.

Louise

Funding Crisis

You will have heard much about funding cuts to education in the news recently (between Brexit stories!) You will have also heard about potential extra investment and may be wondering how all this affects Soho Parish. As you know, we have always had to work hard to fundraise as our small class sizes mean our budget is significantly smaller than other schools of a similar size. In fact, over the last year we have raised £120,000 (and this does not include the fundraising of the PTA). This equates to around £600 per pupil. However, last year our budget was reduced by £1200 per pupil. Despite two years of balanced budgets, we are once again heading for a deficit. I invite all parents to attend a meeting to find out more about the school's finances and how you can help on **Wednesday 11th December at 5.30pm**. Please save the date.

Learning from Reception

Over the last few weeks, Reception have been engaging in various STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mechanics) activities linked to traditional tales. Last half term, after reading *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, the children were challenged to build a bridge that could hold an animal above water. They could use any resources they found in the classroom, worked in teams to create their working bridges and tested them with small world animals. The children's imagination and ingenuity shone and the results were incredible, I am sure you will agree that we have some future mechanics and engineers in our midst!



Meet the Governors: Lyn Meadows

Hello, I'm Lyn Meadows and it's my privilege to be the Chair of Governors at Soho Parish. I've been a governor here since November 2005, and Chair for the last three years: before that, I was Vice-chair of Governors and Chair of the Resources Committee.



I'm now retired so I have plenty of time to visit the school and see what is happening. I trained as a solicitor and worked for local authorities, initially dealing with child protection and safeguarding, but more recently dealing with planning, regeneration and contracts.

The arts, especially music, are one of my passions and our arts rich curriculum and the opportunity for our children to experience the wide range of artistic events locally is a real strength of the school. I love having the chance to see the Christmas shows, arts week exhibitions and other performances that the children take part in. It was a real treat to go to the Royal Albert Hall in March and hear the school choir and hundreds of other school choir members perform a specially written piece.

Parent Teacher Meetings

This term our parent teacher meetings will take place on Wednesday 20th November. Sign up is now available on parentmail. The format of the meetings will be slightly different as we will be holding all meetings in the BB Hall, not in separate offices around the school. This will enable us to manage meetings more efficiently so that we can run to time, and it also allows us to comply more fully with lone working regulations. Having seen the system in operation at other schools, we are convinced that meetings can still be held comfortably with confidentiality maintained. Louise and Mayowa will also have a desk in the hall, so do feel free to 'drop in' to see us with any queries, suggestions or concerns.

Elected Student Councillors

We are pleased to announce that our school councillors for 2019-2020 are:

Year 1: Lilli Rose and Anaya

Year 2: Zach, Seraphine and Daniel

Year 3: Adam and Sebastian

Year 4: Tagore and Lulu

Year 5: Ayah and Sienna

Year 6: Connor and Aodhan

We are positive these school representatives will communicate effectively with their classes to help children feel cared about, listened to and to help the community.



Music Workshop: Sunday 3rd November

Greg, our violin teacher is leading an exciting music workshop this Sunday, 11:00am – 2:30pm

The Metapraxix Ensemble is touring schools with their new outreach programme: Music Building. It is a series of workshops that combine music with crafts, graphic design and architecture.

The event at IKLECTIK is an opportunity for the **WHOLE FAMILY** to experience this project - no musical knowledge or experience is required!

Come and make your own graphic score (i.e. create your own piece of music), and work with a group of professional musicians to develop it for a concert that takes place later on!

Tickets: £5 for 1 adult & 1 child

IKLECTIK, 'Old Paradise Yard', 20 Carlisle Lane (Royal Street corner) next to Archbishop's Park, SE1 7LG

www.metapraxix.org.uk

PTA News

Firstly a big **THANK YOU** to all those who helped or came to the Park Walk and Disco. Together they raised over £800 for the school and were great fun too!



Small business initiative:

Several parents who would like to offer discounts to you and / or would be able to donate money to the PTA if you used their services have approached the PTA. As a result, we are going to set up Friends of the PTA page on the website that will list businesses that are willing to offer Soho Parish PTA members (i.e. all parents at SP) a discount or give money to us to help the school. We will also list them on the notice board, which we will put outside the school gates. If you are interested in adding your business to the list please email us on sohoparishPTA@gmail.com

Christmas Cards:

This year, we have been using 'Class Fundraising', which is a company that has provided us with exciting projects to help raise money for school e.g. school tea towels. Before half term, your child was given a template to create their own unique Christmas card design, which was sent off and the samples returned. Today, your child will bring their sample card home with an order form. There is no need to shop for Christmas cards this year as you can make your child's Christmas card design the one you send out to friends and family. The PTA will be available in the playground in the morning and at the end of the day all next week to collect your completed order forms and payments (card or cash). The deadline for completed forms and payments is **Friday 8th November**



Upcoming events:

The Christmas Fete is on the 6th of December and we are currently looking for people who can volunteer, provide decorations, and provide raffle or tombola prizes. If you are able to help please email us on sohoparishPTA@gmail.com



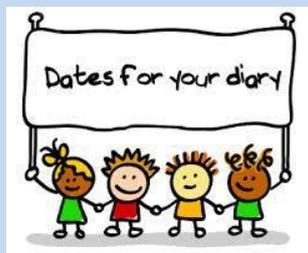
Film Night – 30th January, Time TBA

Quiz night - 27th February, 7pm – 9pm



On Monday the 4th of November, we will be putting raffle tickets in all the kids bags and it would be great if you could sell these to family and friends. There are already some great prizes and more will be added before the draw. All ticket stubs and money should be given to Mary on the book stall on Friday afternoons or to PTA stand on parent's evening (20th of November). You can also bring them along to the PTA coffee mornings on Fridays.

Do have a look at our new website for more information about the PTA and upcoming events <https://www.sohoparishpta.com/>



November

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tue 19 th		CHILL Study follow up from last year	BB Hall
Wed 20 th	13.30-18.20	Parent teacher meetings	BB Hall
Mon 25 th – Fri 30 th		Art Week	

December

Date	Time	Event	Location
Fri 6 th		PTA: Christmas Fair	Playground
Tue 10 th	11.30-14.30	Christmas lunch	BB Hall
Wed 11 th	10:00	Reception Christmas Show	BB Hall
Wed 11 th	17:30	Finance Meeting for Parents	White Hall
Thu 12 th	14.00	Nativity (Year 1 and 2)	BB Hall
Tue 17 th	11.00	Christmas Service	St James' Piccadilly
Tue 17 th	13.30	End of term (school finishes at 13.30)	

January

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 6 th		Start of term	
Fri 10 th	3:30	Y6 Cake sale	Playground
Thu 30 th	TBA	PTA: Film Night	BB Hall

February

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 6 th		Start of term	
Fri 10 th	3:30	Y6 Cake sale	Playground
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st		Half Term	
Thu 27 th	19:00-21:00	PTA: Quiz Night	BB Hall

Please check these dates every newsletter as they may change.