



# Ravenstone News

The Newsletter from  
Ravenstone Primary  
School PTA  
October 2011

## OUR VERY OWN COALITION!

The new academic year sees new faces in the parent teacher association (PTA). A big welcome to not one but two new chairpersons – Annie Taylor and Jane Briginshaw. The duo will be supported by a new vice-chair, Sue Metcalfe, and new secretary, Liz Pleasance. Sid Smith and Sara Walls remain in their roles as co-treasurers and so complete a strong and approachable PTA committee. Please do approach them! They can be found in the playground or messaged by email or text. Find out more about the PTA and how you can get involved! This is an organisation that raises huge amounts of money for the school and contributes to all areas of school life – from replenishing the library to providing sports equipment to funding school trips and buying musical instruments. Other new faces to welcome include Matt Barker who takes on the PTA section of the website and a smattering of new class reps – see the Who's who section on the back.

**A very fond farewell:** Whether leaving the school completely or just stepping down from prominent PTA roles, there are several people who have been key to the huge successes of the PTA over the last few years – to whom we are now saying goodbye. Our chair incumbent, Gill Upton, led the PTA very successfully through the last two years – during which time a staggering £39,000 profit was made and some very exciting new events added to the PTA repertoire, including the Vitality Night and the Comedy Night. Sarah Hill as vice-chair and Jo Turner as secretary have been tireless in both instigating events, seeing them through and endlessly helping behind the scenes. We will all feel their loss!

## NEXT PTA MEETING

Friday 4 November  
9 am Brick Hut  
**ALL WELCOME!**

**School lottery:** Well we don't have a jackpot worth millions, but the school lottery offers sweet if modest winnings. If you'd like one – and you want to help raise money for the school – contact Sue Metcalfe.

## COMING UP

Abel & Co ("Farmer's Choice") re-launch  
Tuesday 1 November in the playground  
from 3.15 pm

Autumn tea: Wednesday 9 November in the  
lower hall from 3.15 pm – contributions  
to be left in the brick hut in the morning of the  
event - so get baking!

Ghana Evening for Yameriga's 50th birthday  
Friday 18 November in the lower hall 6–8 pm

Christmas Shopping Evening: Thursday  
24 November in the lower hall 7–10 pm

Christmas Fair: Saturday  
3 December from 3–5 pm

**Yameriga's 50th birthday:** Our sister school in Yameriga, Ghana, is celebrating. To mark this, there will be special assemblies during the school day and a Ghana evening. If you know anyone

Ghanaian who would like to help  
– or you can volunteer yourself  
– please contact Katherine.



Yameriga evening – contact  
Katherine Harvey  
07802 857312  
katherineharvey3@gmail.com

## Christmas Shopping Evening:

A great success last year and a fantastic opportunity for one-stop Christmas shopping in a happy and relaxed, festive environment! We will be inviting a variety of local businesses to set up stalls offering original and quality gifts, including jewellery, children's clothes, accessories, food, wine, pampering goods and gadgets. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in having a stall, please contact Virginie, Penny or Juliet.



Christmas Shopping Evening  
Virginie Trinder 07941 872223  
virginie100@gmail.com

**Christmas Fair:** Lead organiser this year is Janneke Diemel. Each class is responsible for a stall, coordinated by class reps. Stalls include secrets room, Santa's grotto, Christmas wish tree and more.



Christmas Fair – contact:  
Janneke Diemel 07956 474030  
jdiemel@hotmail.com

**Diversity:** Ravenstone's diverse cultural mix is one of our school's great strengths. Making sure that people of all ages and cultures feel able to take part in the PTA is one of our main aims. How do you think we should do this? So far suggestions include a link to read the newsletter in other languages and a regular feature written in one of our non-english languages. Email Annie or Jane with any other ideas.

## You too can get involved!

Here are some PTA positions that are yet to be filled.

And this is why you should consider them:

- 1) if you help out, you feel good about yourself!
- 2) the Ravenstone PTA is the most sociable PTA in Greater London!

### • Co-publicity

Richard Geraghty produces wonderful posters – he needs a conspirator who is in the playground from time to time and can liaise with event organisers.

### • Newsletter

You can write and produce this newsletter! You do it from home – and it means you're always in the know!

### • Class rep Reception (Simon)

If you have a child in Simon's reception class and are happy to organise the odd coffee morning and pass on PTA information to your fellow Reception parents, this one is for you.

If interested please contact  
Jane Briginshaw or Annie Taylor.

**Last year's successes:** At the PTA AGM last month, we learnt that the PTA raised £18,000 last year and spent £15,000 on: school journeys - £2,500.00; school trips - £3,200.00; new printer - £1,500.00; music equipment - £4000.00; and PA Equipment - £2,377.00. The remainder was spent on a variety of minor projects such as planting, improvements to the playground and fruit for sports day. But we want to hear your suggestions – whether it's solar panels for the roof, more school trips or trumpets for all, come to the meeting on 4th November with your views.