

7 June 2017



Dear fellow Parent/Carer,

I hope you had a good half-term break and are pleased to be back to the school routine. The final stretch of the summer term is the busiest one for your Parents' Association (PA) in terms of activities and fund-raising and we look for your help in a number of ways:

**1. Mock Tests Saturday 17th June**

As you know, we have begun a series of Mock Tests for prospective candidates at Grammar schools and were pleased to see a filled Great Hall for both sessions last Saturday. Both sessions scheduled for 10th June are full but we still have a small number of available places on 17th June. Do tell your friends that this will be the last chance in 2017 for their Year 5 child to try out what is perhaps the most challenging available mock test for Grammar School admission, and where feedback provided includes ranking across the cohort sitting the test. Details, including how to book, are at: [www.saintolavespa.net](http://www.saintolavespa.net).

**2. Spruce Up Day Saturday 24th June – Volunteers Needed: 30 or more**

As you know, once a year on School Open Morning, we showcase our school to prospective applicants and their parents / carers. The staff and students take an enormous amount of trouble to ensure that everything is in pristine condition. Many of you will remember having attended the Open Day before your child applied, and admiring the facilities and work on display. This year Open Day is being held on Sat 1st July so your PA plans to spruce up the school a week earlier. Work involved includes painting, weeding, cutting grass and cleaning. Materials will be provided and, while it would be ideal if you can attend all day, we will be happy if you commit to spending as little as 2 hours any time after 9.00 a.m. You may make it a family event and bring your child (though will always remain responsible for them). As you must have read in two consecutive Newsletters from the Head, we had a very successful similar team effort on 6th May.

If you can help, please e-mail [pa@saintolaves.net](mailto:pa@saintolaves.net) mentioning what time you can join and what activity you can assist with so that we can arrange suitable quantities of paint, brushes, tools and other equipment. If you can bring a hedge trimmer or strimmer, do let us know.

**3. Summer Family Fun Day Saturday 8th July – Volunteers Needed: 100 or more!**

As our second largest fund-raising event (after the Mock Tests) this provides the pleasing contrast of a very social activity. At the event, between noon and 3.30 pm, this year we have new stalls, e.g., specialist crêpes, emergency services display, reptile handling, and Welly Wanging, as well as new events: a Y7 inter-house tug-of-war competition and a Doce Pares demonstration.

We need help please:

- a) Volunteer to man a stall, help with set-up (from 8.30 am), or clear away at the end (until 4.30 pm), or all three! Please email [pafundayvolunteers@saintolaves.net](mailto:pafundayvolunteers@saintolaves.net) with details of when you can help and what you prefer to do.
- b) Donate prizes for stalls, e.g., new gifts and luxury items for the tombola (save them to send in to school during Donations Week that runs from 26th to 30th June).
- c) Provide some food for the International Food Stall. E-mail Gauri at [grover\\_sanj@hotmail.com](mailto:grover_sanj@hotmail.com) to let her know what you plan to bring in on the day. It can be food from anywhere in the world and enough to feed 6 to 60 people.
- d) Demonstrate your baking skills: we need cakes, cupcakes, etc. (no nuts please) of all varieties. Bring them in on the morning of July 8 around 11 am.

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**“Factors that are important in determining high standardised test scores in children include parental involvement in the PTA”**

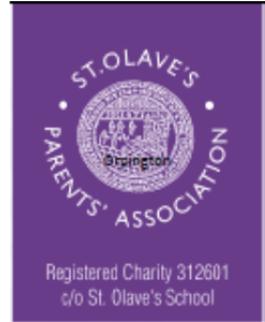
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#### 4. Matched Funding

If you work for a large bank, e.g., Barclays, Santander, Lloyds, UBS, or an accountancy firm, e.g., PwC, EY, KPMG, or other large company, e.g., Shell, BP, Marks & Spencer, (a more detailed list is available at: [http://saintolaves.net/uploads/admin/download/file/54/matched\\_funding.pdf](http://saintolaves.net/uploads/admin/download/file/54/matched_funding.pdf)) you will probably be able to help us get Matched Funding for money you raise, benefitting the school **without it costing you anything**. This could be used at the Summer Family Fun Day or the Dragon Boat Racing (see **6.** below). Some companies also match any funds you donate. Please contact us at [pa@saintolaves.net](mailto:pa@saintolaves.net) or call at 020 7500 3927 with details of the company you work for and we will guide you through the process.

#### 5. Recycling

At the last Parents' Association Committee meeting, we declined a request from the school for £2,000 towards recycling of paper and cardboard as it was felt to be high and we thought funding other items may be higher priority. This service was provided free of cost by Bromley Council several years ago. When it was subcontracted to Viridor, they would charge for garbage collection but would collect paper and cardboard without charge as its value in the recycling process met their costs. Recently they have proposed charging £2,000 per year to continue collection.

We are supportive of protecting the environment and would like our children to grow up with the same attitude and values. However the cost is high and we would rather not send paper to landfill. Do you know of an alternate method by which we can recycle paper and card inexpensively? If so, please e-mail [pa@saintolaves.net](mailto:pa@saintolaves.net) with details.

#### 6. Dragon Boat Racing Saturday 9th September – Volunteers needed: 20 or so

As a new event arranged by your PA, we are looking for your support to join the School team "*The Goddington Raiders*," comprising 20 people, at the Bawl Water Dragon Boat Racing competition. No paddling experience is necessary and boats, paddles and drums are all provided. All we need is your time, your sense of adventure, and a willingness to raise sponsorship money for the PA. If you are interested or want more information, please email: [david.mylroi@santander.co.uk](mailto:david.mylroi@santander.co.uk)

#### 7. Diwali Night Friday 6th October

This is another new event requiring a core group of about half a dozen people to assist with arrangements for a multi-course dinner and entertainment including fireworks. If you can help, please contact [neeti@bdconsult.co.uk](mailto:neeti@bdconsult.co.uk)

8. **Ensuring Excellence Calls:** A Wed or Thu evening in September from 6.00 until 8.30 pm  
As you know, the Ensuring Excellence Campaign is aimed at *augmenting the school budget and offsetting the impact of governmental cuts* and we need volunteers to join our session of follow up phone calls to parent donors. If you can help, please contact Phil at [philburnleyrichardson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:philburnleyrichardson@yahoo.co.uk)

Thank you

Ravi Savur  
Secretary – St. Olave's Parents' Association