



Welcome to Phil & Jim!

*Greetings to new and returning families,
from the Phil & Jim's PTA*



Congratulations on joining the Phil and Jim family! Your child and family will be part of an amazing school and community, and we are so excited to share with you a little bit about the Parent Teachers Association and ***Who We Are & What We Do.***

Exactly Who is the P & J PTA?

YOU. Every parent or carer of a child at Phil and Jim is a member of the Parent Teachers Association. You are invited from day one to participate in the school community in whatever capacity you choose. Whether it be at our regular meetings, volunteering in the classroom, donating treats for cake sales, or organising and/or helping at fundraisers, any way you are able to take part is an asset to the school community.

TEACHERS & STAFF Communication is key, and the teachers and staff will utilize the PTA and Class Representatives to distribute information and important reminders to you. We are all in it together!

COMMITTEE 2014-2015

Co-Chairs, Lara Stokes and Jennifer Ingham
Secretary, Lisa Guppy
Treasurer, Tania Wilson
Class Rep Coordinator, Emma Dadson

What does the Phil and Jim's PTA do?

Essentially, the main goal of the PTA is to strengthen the relationship between the school and parents. We aim to help assist the school with funds for programs, activities, and facilities that will enrich and maximize the education of every student. In order to reach this goal, we fundraise throughout the year with exciting, fun, and community-building events which aim to bring the whole school together.

Enrichment Activities and School Items Funded/Assisted by the PTA in previous years:

- Athletics
- Forest School
- Life Education Bus
- DT Kitchen
- Stage
- Residentials/Field Trips
- Nurture Shed
- Mound
- Laptops
- Furniture

FUNDRAISING

The Phil & Jim's PTA has had a very successful fundraising history, making up to £18,000 in one academic year! This money goes directly back to the students in the form of IT equipment, sports equipment, new books, etc. We aim to have a major fundraising effort every term, and we would like to take the opportunity to tell you a little bit about these amazing events. Some of these are primarily social events for the school community, with the added benefit of raising money for our children at Phil and Jim. All major fundraisers are organised and run by a committee of parents just like you, and we would love it if you would like to get on board any of these activities for the 2014/2015 school year!

We were very busy in 2013/2014, and held many successful and fun events. While some activities are held every year, others are always up for revamping. Please read below to get an idea of some of the events/activities we have held in the past.

School Calendar:

The School Calendar is a practical, fun and unique keepsake produced by the school and the PTA every year as a memento of your child's year at Phil & Jim. Early in October your child has the opportunity to be photographed (with your permission) with all other students and teachers from their birth month in a theme that relates to that month. The images are always a lot of fun as kids are encouraged to dress up for the photo. In addition to the photo, your child's birthday is shown on the calendar. The calendar is quality printed and is available for purchase for £5 early in December. Your child will delight in seeing themselves and their friends on your calendar during their birth month; many families collect their calendars over the years as keepsakes. The calendar also makes a unique gift for grandparents, family and friends. Costs to make the calendar are generally covered by advertising with our local sponsors, so the sale of the calendar is often all profit for the school. For 2013/2014, the calendar raised more than £1800!



Promises Auction:

Our Charity Auction is a fun social evening where you have the chance to meet parents over a glass of wine & mince pie while having the possibility to bid on a wide range of great prizes and promises donated to the PTA -- from yoga lessons to restaurant vouchers, family entertainment to theatre/cinema tickets and holiday cottage getaways! Our first BIG event of the year, the auction is held in the fall. In 2014, the auction not only produced some of the best prizes we have ever had, but we raised more than £3,000 for the school!

Handmade Christmas Cards

This is a fundraiser for the PTA, but something special for your friends and family, as well! Basically, your child will draw a picture which will then be reproduced into greeting cards and/or gift tags. Parents can purchase packs of the cards, and a percentage of the funds go to the PTA; e.g. for every pack of 12 cards sold for £6, the PTA makes £1.

The pictures do not need to be Christmas designs. They can be birthday, thank you, Hanukkah, Eid or even left blank. Your child does not need to be an amazing artist to achieve a really great result. The drawings are usually collected late October; this year it will be 23 October 2014 and the cards are returned to us for distribution around 6 November.



Student Bazaar:

The Christmas Bazaar is an event where the students do some "secret Christmas shopping" for their families. During the two weeks prior to the bazaar, the PTA asks parents to donate small items/gifts (soaps, candles, small toys and games, candy, etc). These are then sold for a very small price at the bazaar (10p, 20p, 50p, £1).

It only takes two days of work to organize this event. The first day volunteers sort out and price the items to be sold (so every classroom has the same amount and quality of items to buy) and the next day is the bazaar itself. The shopping flows very smoothly, with each classroom arriving to shop for 15 /20 minutes throughout the day. Each child is advised to bring a maximum of £2.00 to spend. It is a joyful event and very easy to organize since lots of parents always want to take part in it. While not a huge fundraiser for the school, combined with the Christmas cards and generally raising around £1000, the Christmas Bazaar is a fun event which all the children get excited about and look forward to for years to come.

Quiz Night:

This is a social event organised by the PTA. It is a pub quiz run in the school hall, generally on a Friday evening in late January/early February. A couple of the dads are the Quiz Masters, currently Matt Richardson and James Droop.

Your ticket price includes dinner, and recently we have served delicious Beef or Vegetarian Lasagne and salad, provided by the Jericho Café. In the past we have also had a drinks bar and a dessert station to complete your meal (for purchase). You can either organise to be in a team or just come along and find one when you arrive. Maximum team numbers are 10-12.

Quiz Night is a lot of fun – and it also happens to raise some money (approx. £900 in 2014) for the school. However, its purpose is primarily to have a great evening, and parents have always said what a great event this is!

Mother's Day Breakfast:

Our Mother's Day Breakfast is a lovely event (usually on the Thursday closest to Mother's Day) where families come to have breakfast in a relaxed atmosphere in the school hall before school starts. The breakfast usually includes croissants, baguette and jam, and fruit salad, as well as coffee, tea, and juice. Flowers are sold in little bouquets for children to give to their moms, the hall is decorated, and there's a "Why-I-love-Mom" colouring sheet for children. Donors include the always generous Jericho Cafe, Starbucks, Aldi and the CO-OP. It's not a huge fundraiser for the school, but more of a social event designed to celebrate the hard working mums among us!



Nearly New Sale:

The Nearly New Sale is an annual event at the start of the summer term, on a Sunday afternoon from 1-3pm. It's a great opportunity to buy good quality second-hand clothes, shoes, toys, books, and anything else you can think of for a child age 0-11.

In order to succeed, we need sellers to sell those great quality items. Sellers price up and tag their own things before the sale, drop them off the day before, and for the effort will receive 75% of the sale price, with the other 25% going to the school. If you would like to help out the school with this event without selling yourself, we gladly accept donations of good-quality items, of which 100% of the proceeds go to the school. Of course, we also need buyers, so come along and bag a bargain! There were some fantastic deals this year and people were stocking up for the years ahead. Not only was the 2014 NNS a great success for the 80+ sellers who earned money, we raised more than £2200 for Phil & Jim!

Summer Fete:

Every year in mid to late June (about 20th) the PTA organises and runs the Summer Fete on the school grounds. It is always on a Saturday and runs from 12 noon until 3 pm. This is one of the biggest fundraising events of the year and involves the whole school community and the community at large. It can be a great way to meet other parents, particularly parents with children in other years. We charge an entry fee for adults only and then there are a large range of stalls which are manned and organised by parents and sometimes children at the school. All of the proceeds goes to the PTA.

These are the type of stalls and activities that might be at the fete:

- Bouncy castle, a huge range of games – Bat the rat, Buzz wire, Drop the Coin, Fizz Quiz, Coconut shy, Crazy Catch, Hook the Duck, Penalty Shoot-out, Speed camera, Sweets in a jar guessing game
- Face painting, tattoos, biscuit decorating, hair braiding, edible bracelets
- Book stall, Lucky Lolly Dip, Plant Stall, raffle
- Ice creams, iced lollies, cakes, old fashioned sweets, curries, BBQ, strawberries, salads, lunchboxes, bar
- Talent show and music from local choirs and bands

It is a lot of fun to attend with your children and also to get involved and help out at one of the stalls. You can also help out behind the scenes with organising the raffle, getting sponsors for the program and advertising. In 2014, we raised more than £6200 and we can use this money to spend on a variety of projects around the school.

Other Fundraising

- Class Cake Sales—money raised is used directly by teachers
- Amazon referral. Use our PTA Amazon link (found on our website) when you order on Amazon and the school will receive a percentage of the sale!
- Shopping. Please find the Support Us link on the PTA website for more ways to earn money for our school!

COMMUNICATION

- PTA Website: <http://www.philandjimspta.org/> Re-launching in Autumn 2014, the new PTA website will have news and updates and all information you will need to keep up to date about everything the PTA is up to at our school!
- PTA Email: philandjimspta@gmail.com We will use this forum to send you important information about upcoming events, reminders, and actions that may need your attention.
- Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/PhilAndJimsPTA> please like the page to receive important news and notices!
- Follow us on Twitter! @PhilandJimsPTA We like to use this forum to give thanks and notices to parents and sponsors for all their hard work on our fundraising events!
- Class Rep Emails: Each classroom teacher will seek out 1-2 parent representatives to take the lead to create a class list and be the liaison between the teacher and parents.

While the PTA here at Phil and Jim is incredibly successful, raising thousands of pounds every year to aid the school with equipment and programs that directly benefit your children, we could not do it alone. We have generous support from many local businesses, sponsors and donors, and most of all, parents JUST LIKE YOU.

GET INVOLVED!

We want to hear your ideas and suggestions for how to make Phil and Jim even better for all of our children, so please mark your diary with the dates for the PTA meetings.

Again, welcome to Phil and Jim and the new school year. We encourage you to get involved—you can make a difference!

Best Regards
Phil & Jim's PTA Co-Chairs, 2014/2015

Lara Stokes
Parent of Seth (year 2) and Grace (EYU)

Jennifer Ingham
Parent of Maxwell (year 2) and Darian (EYU)