



Welcome to the Old Heath School Association

The PTA for Old Heath Community Primary School



www.ohsa.co.uk



Registered Address
Old Heath Community Primary School
Old Heath Road, Colchester, Essex. CO2 8DD

Charity Number: 1046675

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Introduction

Welcome to our school

This booklet has been compiled by the Old Heath School Association (OHSA) especially for you, whether you already have a child at our school, or as a new family joining our school community. We realise it can be strange and a little nerve-wracking starting at a new school and there always seems to be so many questions to ask. This booklet aims to provide you with information about our *Association* which forms a major part of school life.

If you have any questions that remain unanswered, please contact one of the committee members, your class teacher or at the school office.

Why do we have the OHSA?

We are fortunate at our school to have the OHSA. It has been an integral part of the school community for many years. In its time the OHSA has raised thousands of pounds, which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's education experience and the school's facilities.

Our OHSA is about much more than simply fundraising. The OHSA exists to provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It is fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or OHSA helpers. Obviously, as in any organisation, we have experienced some challenges but with the continued support of parents and staff, our OHSA has always succeeded in its efforts.

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available. All families are automatically members of the OHSA when their child joins our school.

Links with local businesses

We have, over time, developed strong links with the local community and are always well supported by both residents and businesses, for which we are very grateful. Many of our local shops are very generous providing donations for raffle prizes, auction items etc and some have taken part in our Christmas and Summer fairs.

Charitable status

Charity law requires voluntary organisations such as ours to register with the [Charity Commission](#) for England and Wales. As a charity we must abide by Charity Commission rules and regulations and we are bound by a governing document referred to as our constitution. Our constitution sets out the rules about how we operate and how we conduct ourselves. If you would like to see a copy of the [constitution](#), please contact one of the Committee members, or look on our website (www.ohsa.co.uk).

Being a registered charity enables the OHSAs to:-

- receive charitable donations from local and national companies
- apply to grant-making charitable trusts; most charitable trusts will give grants only to groups formally recognised as charities
- receive donations made through payroll giving and company matched giving schemes
- apply for Gift Aid

Support from PTA UK

Our OHSAs are members of the PTA UK, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance for all home school associations in England, Wales



and Northern Ireland. Our association is one of over 13,000 members in current membership of the PTA UK. We pay an annual membership fee to the PTA UK which gives us lots of member benefits including comprehensive insurance cover for all OHSAs run events, support and advice on running a PTA plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips. PTA UK also provides us with the opportunity to meet and communicate with other PTAs to discuss and share experiences. We receive regular publications and guidance to ensure our events are legal and safe. In addition, we have a valuable resource at our fingertips – www.pta.org.uk

Role of the Committee

Our OHSA committee consists of four Officers: Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We also have Teacher and Parent members who regularly attend OHSA committee meetings.

The committee meet on a regular basis, usually once each month. Meetings are held both during school hours and after school to give all parents the opportunity to do so.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in September and provides an opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about the work of the OHSA, the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also the occasion when we elect our new committee members.

A list of current OHSA committee members is published on our website (www.ohsa.co.uk) and in our monthly Newsletter. If you are interested in joining the committee or OHSA as a volunteer, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the committee.

How we raise money

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

- Halloween Disco
- Christmas Fair
- Fashion Show
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Summer Fete



We are always open to new **fund**raising ideas.

We raise money in other ways too. Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes or offers of services and skills.

The OHSA also try to explore any other innovative ways of raising funds without costing us any more money.

giftaid it

Gift aid is new to the OHSA and we are hoping that using Gift Aid will boost our funds considerably. It is tax claimed back from the Inland Revenue from donations made to us out of your earned income.

If you are a UK tax payer, we are able to claim 28.2p in every pound that you donate to our OHSA. The procedure for this is very simple. Every time you support the OHSA with a cash donation or if you support a sponsored event, the OHSA can claim the Gift Aid on your contribution simply by completing a declaration that you are a UK tax payer.

There is nothing further for you to do and we need no other information from you. The issue of Gift Aid is taken on trust and you can support more than one charity in this way. We do not, and are not required to divulge any personal information to the HMRC from your completed forms.



for Charity 

eBay for Charity is an easy way for buyers and sellers on eBay.co.uk to support their favourite charities.

Buyers can shop for items knowing they are supporting a good cause, be it an everyday bargain or a special auction. Sellers, whether they are individuals or businesses, can donate a percentage from any sale to a charity of their choice and add Gift Aid to their donations. Charities can also sell their own items directly on eBay.co.uk.

In addition, all eBay for Charity items will qualify for a fee credit on basic insertion and final value fees equal to the percentage donated.

OHSA registered with eBay for Charity in 2011, so look out for us next time you are buying or selling.

Company Matched Giving

Company matched giving is a very simple. Companies or businesses pledge to donate to a charity such as ourselves an amount of money relating to the amount that an employee(s) donates or fundraises for us. We welcome any opportunity to be helped by this type of donation. There are several benefits to both us and the company involved:

- employees' morale is boosted by having their efforts supported by their employer
- the company benefits from having charitable donations written off against taxable profits
- the company can endeavour to get publicity for their giving
- our OHSa benefits from receiving perhaps double what we have raised at an event



If you think that your employer has a matched giving scheme already in operation, or if you would like some more information about charity matched giving, please talk to us.

Below is a list of **some** of the companies that have schemes:

Abbey National plc, Alliance & Leicester, Argos, ASDA Group (Asda Foundation Trust), Barclays Bank, Bradford and Bingley, British Telecommunications, Camelot Group, Firstgroup, Halifax, HSBC Midland, Legal and General Ins., Marks & Spencer, National Westminster Bank, Norwich Union, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Tesco (Tesco Charity Trust), Waitrose and many, many more.

The list is not exhaustive.

Search the
web and
raise money
for charity



www.everyclick.com

EveryClick – Giving your mouse a heart !

All internet searches mean a donation is made to OHSa without costing you, or us, penny!! You can register with EVERYCLICK to track the amount on money *you* have raised just by surfing the net.

<http://www.everyclick.com/oldheathschoolassociation>



Ink Cartridge Recycling



Start saving your empty ink/toner cartridges and raise money for the OHSa. A recycle bin is located in School.

Recycle bins are also available for Parents to have in their place of work - contact the OHSa to arrange.



OHSa Receive:

£1 for every branded cartridge, 50p for every remanufactured or refilled cartridge & 75p for any original branded toner.

For each £1 we raise the recycling company will also award us a 'green point'. These points can then be redeemed for items like bird boxes, gardening equipment, bat boxes or even a hedgehog house.

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Easyfundraising.org.uk provide a FREE service where you can shop with your favourite online stores and, at no extra cost, raise funds

for any charity, good cause or group you choose to support. OHSa are registered with easyfundraising.org.uk.

You still shop directly with each retailer as you would normally, but simply by using the links provided first, each purchase you make will generate a **cash back donation** to the cause you wish to support.

For example, spend £25 with WHSmith on Books and 2.5% will be donated. You will have raised £0.63, at no extra cost to your purchase. Make any purchase from Amazon and 2.5% will be donated and so on. The % donation will be advertised for each retailer/service provider.

If you ALREADY shop online, why not help good causes at no extra cost from your usual purchases.



How we spend the money we raise

Following a fundraising event the money is banked straight away. It is at our OHSA Committee meetings, that the decisions on how to spend the money are agreed.

Usually, Mr Hallum, our Headteacher, will have a 'wish list' of items that the school would like the OHSA to consider funding. Sometimes this will be as a result of the children asking for something.

At other times it will be for resources to improve a particular area of the curriculum or school environment. The OHSA funds are spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting.

OHSA funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building as this is the responsibility of the school Governing Body.

The money we raise is usually spent fairly quickly. That way, you can be sure that in supporting our school, your child/ren will feel the benefit, along with everybody else.

Of course there have been times when we have been fundraising for a large project, such as when OHSA purchased new desks and chairs for the three newly built classrooms.

However, whilst saving for these, we have still managed to find funds for smaller items thanks to the generous and continued support of our parents.



How we get information to you

The OHSA now have a number of ways to get information to parents. These include the School Newsletter, Parentmail, OHSA's own Noticeboard and Facebook page and on the Web (www.ohsa.co.uk).

Find us on Facebook

facebook Search Home Profile Account

Old Heath School Association (OHSA) Community · Edit info

Wall

Share: Status Photo Link Video Question

Write something...

Old Heath School Association (OHSA) created an event.

Summer Fete
Saturday, 25 June 2011 at 13:00
Old Heath Community Primary School Field
2 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share · RSVP to this event

Old Heath School Association (OHSA)
Summer Fete: 15 days to go - Don't forget the Childrens Fancy Dress Competition...start planning those outfits now!
2 hours ago · Like · Comment

Old Heath School Association (OHSA)
16 Days to go before the Summer Fete - Have you written it on your calendar?
Old Heath School Association Events
ohsa.yoksisite.com
What's on at Old Heath School

Admins (4) [?] See all

Use Facebook as Old Heath School Association (OHSA)

Notifications [1]

Promote with an advert

View Insights

Suggest to friends

You and Old Heath School Association (OHSA)

6 friends like this.

Quick tips

Get more people to like your page with Facebook Adverts today!

Sample Advert: Old Heath School...
The text of your advert will go here.

OLD HEATH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Home News Events Spending Give as you Live

Old Heath School Association (OHSA) is the PTA for Old Heath Community Primary School, Colchester.

Old Heath School Association (OHSA) is the PTA for Old Heath Community Primary School, Colchester. The OHSA organises and runs fund raising and social activities that enrich the school experience for all our children, and also for the parents that get involved. If you have a child at Old Heath Community Primary School you are automatically a member of the OHSA and you don't need to be on the committee to attend meetings or help run events. Everyone is welcome, and any help greatly appreciated. If you would like to get involved, please email the **OHSA Secretary**.

Next OHSA Meeting
Wednesday 4th May at 9am
in the Learning Lounge

Find us on Facebook

Old Heath School Association (OHSA)
You like this. Unlike

Old Heath School Association (OHSA) — Old Heath School Association (OHSA) created an event.

OHSA Meeting - All Parents
Welcome
Wednesday, 04 May 2011 at 09:00
Learning Lounge
Wednesday at 09:40

Old Heath School Association (OHSA) Start saving your empty ink/toner cartridges and raise money for the OHSA. Recycle bin located in School. Bins also available for Parents to have in their place of work - contact OHSA to arrange.

Empties Please
www.emptiesplease.com
Printer/Toner Cartridge Re-Cycling Scheme

Like

All these mediums will include information on forthcoming events and dates plus requests for assistance, when we are planning large events. Following an OHSA event, we always write to let you know how much was raised, and if we can, will tell you what the money will be spent on.

How you can get involved

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through the OHSA.

Offering to help before events or at other times during the year is so valuable. It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you can not come into school. There are always jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. wrapping gifts, preparing raffle tickets etc. We really couldn't achieve what we do without the behind the scenes help that we receive.

If you would like to be more involved you can come along to one of our regular committee meetings. Or you can simply support the AGM and give us your ideas for fundraising events. This is also the time to ask questions or voice your opinion.

You can help by letting us know if you have any contacts or skills we could use, everything is potentially valuable to us.

And finally, we are always extremely grateful to receive donations as mentioned before.



What the OHSA means to our school

The OHSA is an essential part of our school. All parents and carers are members and everyone's contribution is highly valued. The work of the OHSA underpins the whole school and the financial support provided enables the school to create a richer learning environment for our children. Numerous curriculum resources have been provided which children throughout the school are able to enjoy. The wide variety of social functions, allow us all to get to know one another in a more relaxed setting. The children see their parents and the school staff working together for their benefit. They appreciate this united effort and it adds to their feeling of security.



Thank you for taking the time to read our booklet. We hope you now know a little more about **your** *Old Heath School Association*. On behalf of all the pupils we would like to thank you for your very valuable support which enriches their learning experience and makes their time in school so enjoyable.