Scantabout School Association (SSA) – An Introduction for New Parents

Who are we & what do we do?

The SSA is a registered charity made up of a friendly, supportive group of parent volunteers who work alongside Scantabout School to raise much needed funds to help enrich our children’s time at school. (See attached Structure Diagram for core personnel.) SSA meetings are held around 6 times per year, usually at a local pub and are open to all parents to attend without commitment, providing an opportunity to socialise with others while helping the school.

Our main fundraising happens at the events we host during the year including our Summer and Christmas Fayres. We aim to raise money at these events for the extras that the school’s budget is unable to stretch to including both educational and recreational resources/improvements. The SSA also thinks it is important to provide fun events that the children and the school community will enjoy. Our events usually include:

- Summer Fayre
- Christmas Fayre
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Disco
- Kids film night
- Ice cream Fridays (after school in summer term)
- Adults quiz night
- Bags to School textiles recycling
- Parents’ Presents (our pop-up Christmas shop where pupils can buy small pre-wrapped gifts)
- 101 Club (annual raffle with termly prize draws)
- School grounds sessions
- 2nd hand uniform sales

The SSA also raises money through making grant applications and through Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile donations (see below).

What do we do with the money raised?

The school community has helped us do some fantastic fundraising for the school. Over the last few years this money has resulted in the following improvements, resources and activities at Scantabout (see images below of some of these projects):

- New play provision – The SSA secured grant funding from Aviva to enable the school to install a traversing/climbing wall and we helped fund the installation of the clamber stack feature and renovation of the amphitheatre/social area.
- Restoration of the pond area including scrub removal, resurfacing of the outdoor classroom and bench painting to provide a new area for outdoor learning
• Renovation of the **school courtyard** (next to the dining hall) which now features artificial turf surfacing, seating and table tennis table
• Purchase, assembly and painting of seven **picnic benches** which are being used by children during the school day in the courtyard and on the field as well as providing seating for sports day and the summer fayre
• Chris Brock **modelmaking workshops** for Years 5 & 6
• **Robotics Lego workshop** for Year 4
• **Robotics resources** for Yr R-3
• **Creation station** for Yr R
• Ann Wan **author visit** which all children took part in
• Year 6 leavers’ **yearbooks**
• Purchase of **sports equipment**
• Purchase of new sets of **reading books**
• Purchase of **home-learning resources** during lockdown
• Purchase of **parasols** for shade provision on the playground

**How can you help?**

**Get involved - volunteer**

We are always looking for volunteers to work with us, alongside the school, to help raise funds and lead school community events. Being part of the SSA means you can contribute as much or as little time as you have available, this might be once a year, helping to wrap presents for our Christmas event, or helping on a stall at the fayre through to organising and implementing a big event.

It would be great if a couple of new parents could volunteer to be Class Representatives for the SSA to get some fresh views/ideas. The role mainly involves sharing communications from the SSA about events and activities with your other class members but you would also be the first point of contact for parents who have ideas or want to volunteer their help to the SSA. If you would like to volunteer to be Class Rep or can help in any way or have ideas/suggestions then please contact the SSA directly by putting a note in our post-box by the school office or by communicating with one of the existing SSA members in your class (they will make themselves known to you via your class group).

**Match funding— Does your company offer this?**

Some companies will match the funds raised by their employees for charitable purposes (such as supporting the PTA of their children's school). Does your place of work offer to 'match fund' any fundraising you do? If so, then by offering just 30 minutes of your time at an SSA event you could make a HUGE difference to the amount the SSA can raise and therefore spend on your children at school each year.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you think you may be able to help. You can speak to an existing SSA member or put a note in the SSA post-box in Reception.

**Easyfundraising/ Amazon Smile – Donate to the SSA while you shop online**

We are registered with Easyfundraising which means many retailers will give a donation to the SSA whilst you are shopping online. Please sign up to Easyfundraising and help us raise funds while you shop. It only takes a minute. Register here by clicking on ‘JOIN US’:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/scantaboutprimaryschool/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/scantaboutprimaryschool/)
Every time you shop online, log in to Easyfundraising first to find the retailer you want and start shopping. After you’ve checked out, that retailer will make a free donation to Scantabout School. You can install the ‘Donation Reminder’ or Easyfundraising App to make it even easier!

We will also soon be registered with Amazon Smile which will mean you can raise funds for the SSA while shopping on Amazon too – we will let you know soon how to sign up to this.

**Second Hand Uniform**

The SSA keeps a store of second hand uniform which is laid out at key events for parents/carers to look through and select items in return for a donation to the SSA. Once you have wearable items of uniform that you no longer need please donate them to the SSA via the school office. As new parents, the second hand uniform is usually made available at the Summer Fayre to help you prepare for starting school in September but obviously this year it will not be possible. Hopefully you will have a chance to have a look through the uniform at one of our future events.

**101 Club**

As new parents, you will be asked if you would like to join the 101 Club. This costs £10 per year and you will be allocated a number to be part of our prize draws that take place three times a year with prizes of up to £50 cash. Being a member of the 101 Club is an easy and effortless way of benefiting and contributing to your child’s schooling. Look out for a letter/parentmail about this in due course.

**School Grounds**

We have a group of volunteers who usually meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon to help look after the school grounds. There is a pond, woodland and garden areas which provide a lovely variety of settings for outdoor learning but they do need looking after. Look out for our meeting dates - you do not need gardening expertise; any help is appreciated.

**Communication:**

We have chalkboards close to both top and bottom entrances to school where we display information about upcoming events and we send out Newsletters and Whats On Guides via Primary Site. We also use class Whats App/Facebook groups where available to share details of events and to ask for volunteers. The SSA holds regular meetings, usually at a local pub, or just recently via Zoom, to discuss events and organise our fundraising. All parents are welcome to come along to these meetings, to find out what we are planning or to bring along new ideas. It would be great to see some new parents at our meetings once you have settled your children into Scantabout.

**Contact us:**

Thank you in advance for your support. Your input will always be valued however big or small, whether you help once on a stall or become a committee member. The funds raised by you will make an important difference to your children at Scantabout. Please contact the SSA anytime by speaking to an existing SSA member (or Class Rep once we have two volunteers in place) or put a note in our post-box by the school office. We look forward to welcoming you once we are all back at school in September and hope that we will be able to organise a coffee morning/social at some point so you can meet each other and some of the existing SSA members to find out a bit more about what we do. Hopefully this summary has provided you with a suitable introduction in the meantime! We hope you all have a good summer.

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