

CLESA NEWSLETTER

April 2023

HAPPY EASTER!

From Sophie Fillmore & Nicola Woodward

We hope you had a lovely Easter break!

We were thrilled to see the comeback of the Chestnut Lane Family Fun Night and Elangeni disco in March for the first time since before Covid. This has always been a popular event and this year proved no exception! We would like to thank Pam Deering, Mandip Malhotra, Gurjinder Bhandal-Dyson, Hannah Borthwick, Gaelle Symons & Sarah Sharma for organising such a fantastic and fun day – no easy feat given it involved running 4 events on one day, including organising an additional Elangeni disco at very short notice due to the demand for tickets. They also managed to raise a fantastic £2,378 for CLESA!! We would also like to thank the school staff who kindly gave up their spare time to support the event. For some children it was their first ever school disco, so it was especially exciting, and it was lovely to see so many happy faces on the day!

Later this term we will be bringing back another popular event that was last held before lockdown – the CLESA curry and quiz night which is for adults only. It's a fun evening out with friends and a great chance to meet other parents. Further information on how to buy tickets will be coming out soon. CLESA is also planning a children's event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, like the Easter hunt trail CLESA organised last year.

We are happy to announce that some lovely parent volunteers have offered to lead on this year's Summer Fair, which will be held on Saturday 10 June. This is a significant fundraising event for CLESA and it is a great event where both schools' community can come together. If you can provide any prizes for the raffle we'll be arranging as part of the event, please do let us know.

We will be holding a meeting with the core CLESA committee soon to discuss the fundraising activities and events over the remainder of the academic year.

If you are interested in attending, please email us at clesacochair@gmail.com.



NEW CLESA CHAIR NEEDED

This will be our last term as CLESA co-chairs after 2 years in the role and we are looking for 1-2 people to take over. If you would like to find out more information about what the role entails, do get in touch. **We need to arrange this before the summer holidays so we can arrange a handover and understand whether CLESA will be able to continue from September.**

Without a new Chair(s), CLESA will not be able to operate. All fundraising activities will cease, and children will not benefit from the experiences of attending PTA events that create such precious memories of primary school life.

Please do get in touch with Sophie or Nicola if you would like a copy of the job description or to find out more.

Dates for the diary

Curry & Quiz Night – Saturday 13 May

Summer Fair – Saturday 10 June

Summer campout – Saturday 15 /
Sunday 16 July

CLESA Spend

How your fundraising efforts have been used this academic year...

As reported in the AGM in October, both schools spent considerable amounts of their CLESA funds, which had accumulated over the CLESA sabbatical period during Covid, to invest in new equipment and events for the children over the past year. The schools continue with their spending plans this year.

Elangeni School recently installed a new covered gazebo in the playground to replace the old one, which had come to the end of its life. This provides a quiet and sheltered space for children to talk and play in at breaktimes. Elangeni has also used CLESA funds to pay for workshops for all year groups and is currently looking into plans for new playground equipment.

Chestnut Lane School has used CLESA funds to pay for a covered new scooter park, situated on the driveway leading up to the school. A new play train is in the process of being installed in the playground. The school also has exciting plans to use CLESA funds to create an outdoor wellbeing space for the children.

Both schools used CLESA funds to pay for reflective keyrings given to all pupils during 'Road Safety Week'.

Chestnut Lane scooter park



Elangeni gazebo



Whenever CLESA runs events, they are always highly popular, and we'd love to hold more. We know that your children are keen to attend and it is always difficult when we have limited tickets available.

*We can, however, run more events and provide further opportunities for children and families to attend if we have **more** parent volunteers willing to lead and/or help organize. Not only are you raising important funds for the schools to pay for equipment & experiences for all our children to benefit from and that help bring classroom learning to life, but you will also be involved in events that the children will look back on with happy memories, and that reinforces a sense of school community that is so special and unique to primary school compared to secondary school.*

Get involved – we'd love your support!