



Newsletter

September 2017

Hello from Helping Hands!

Welcome back for another exciting school year at Garfield! The Helping Hands team are looking forward to working with teachers, parents and children to organise fun events and opportunities for our children. There is always lots to get involved with and we'd love you on our team!

Hannah Cresswell

Helping Hands Chair

Looking back ...

We finished last year with a happy afternoon at 'Garfield by the Seaside' – with seagulls, soaked teachers and giant deckchairs, There were lots of smiling faces and with your help we raised £1300 which will be spent on equipment for the playground.

In the Spring Term we conducted a survey of parents, teachers and children to find out what everyone thought of Helping Hands. We're using what you told us to make plans for this year, prioritise spending and encourage more people to get involved.



Dates for your Diary

19 th , 20 th & 21 st September	Uniform for sale as part of the morning meet the teacher sessions Location: Community Room
Friday 29 th September 10am	MacMillan Coffee Morning After the Harvest Assembly Location: Community Room.
Friday 13 th October 10 – 10.30am	AGM after the Diwali assembly Location: Community Room.
Friday 20 th October 9am- 10am	Christmas fair organising Location: Community Room
After school	Refreshment sale
Friday 1 st December	Christmas fair organising Location: Main Hall

Our meetings are open to all parents in the school and younger children are welcome too!

... looking forward!

- Our first event this year will be a **MacMillan Coffee morning on 29th September**. We know that the families of many members of our school community are affected by cancer. As well as raising money for MacMillan, we hope to raise some awareness of how they can provide support when people face difficult times.
- After half term we will be offering face painting workshops with Mrs Ames to train up volunteers for the Christmas Fair.



To get involved with Helping Hands, please come to a meeting, ask in the office or email: helpinghandsgps@gmail.com

Spending money!

We have a big shopping list and are looking forward to spending some of our hard earned funds on gardening equipment, ukuleles, arts and crafts materials, bilingual books and a skipping workshop for the whole school.

Our aim is that the maximum number of children benefit from what we spend Helping Hands money on to give extra experiences and enhance the opportunities the school can provide.



Christmas Fair!

Is it too soon to talk about Christmas?! Not if you're a Helping Hand planning the Christmas Fair!

It will be after school on Friday 2nd December and full of magic and sparkles.

There are so many different jobs to be done to make the fair a success and we would love you to get involved.

School Uniform

Please remember to name your children's uniform!!! Each half term we are helping the school to sort out the huge amounts of lost property and we have found that most of what is lost is unnamed. This means that it can't find its way back to its owner and you have to pay out for extra uniform.

We are also collecting uniform that your children have grown out of. Please hand in any uniform you've finished with to the office.

Reduce – the cost of new uniform!

Reuse – good quality second hand uniform!

Recycle – your unwanted uniform in can find a new home!

We will be selling good quality second uniform throughout the year so come and grab yourself a bargain!



I would get involved if...

- We often hear people say things like "I'd get involved if I wasn't at work during the day" or "I don't speak enough English to be able to help" or "I don't know anyone"
- Make this the school year you **do get involved because:**
 - You don't have to give lots of your time. Just one hour a term would help us out tremendously. There are ways to help that you can do whenever you have spare time - evenings, weekends - not just on Friday mornings or around events.
 - Between us, we speak 18 different languages including Soomali, Albanian and Urdu
 - If you don't know anyone, joining Helping Hands is a great way to meet some new friends
- Volunteering your time is a fantastic way to support the school.
- You can share your existing skills with us or even learn something new!
- If coming to one of our meetings is too scary, look out for us on the playground. Or you can ask in the office and they will help to introduce us to you.

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