

NPSA NEWS

NPSA MEETING & ELECTION OF CHAIR

The next meeting will take place over zoom on **22nd September at 7:30pm**. Everyone is **very** welcome to attend, by clicking on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84910419440>. No password is required. It is an important meeting to plan our way through this interesting year!

At this meeting we will be electing a new Chair of the NPSA. At the end of this newsletter you will find a few words from each of the candidates. Please read them carefully and come along to the meeting when an anonymous online vote will take place to appoint the new Chair. A huge thank you to both candidates for putting their names forward!

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Is it too early to mention Christmas?! There are a few things in the pipeline at the moment as we gear up towards the festive season. Children will be designing Christmas Cards ready for printing and sale in December. We also hope to organise a school calendar for 2021, hoping we will get to write in it more than the 2020 edition! There will also be a Christmas Hamper raffle. Also, a team of parents are in the process of organising a Christmas trail, provisionally called "Light Up Newbridge" and another team is working on a Virtual Quiz in Term 2.

We will be discussing lots of these events at the meeting on 22nd September, and are hoping to recruit volunteers to lead on the calendar in particular. Help is also needed to support lots of other projects too, so please email npsabath@gmail.com if you would like to help out.

**Got an idea for an event either to raise funds or
bring the community together?
Please email npsabath@gmail.com**

BAGS2SCHOOL

We have another Bags2School collection booked in for 28th September. Full details of when and how items can be dropped off will be published next week. In the meantime, start gathering together shoes, bags & clothing items ready to bring in.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our school grounds are in need of some TLC - could you help? We are after enthusiastic, green-fingered volunteers to take on specific areas around school: the allotment (by the top gate); the Spiritual Garden (by the Reception classrooms); the flower beds outside the blue room; the round bed by the 5-bar gate outside upper school; the flower beds between the Y1 classroom and the upper playground; the flower beds by the music room (by the gate into upper school).

If you could spare a couple of hours a week or a fortnight to help keep these areas looking good, please get in touch - either individually or as a group - via npsabath@gmail.com to find out more.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE

Thank you to Sarah Stacey and Sarah Squires for organising the uniform sale at the weekend. It raised approximately £150 so thank you for coming along. We are hoping to organise one of these per half term, if circumstances allow, so watch this space for the next date.

FREE MONEY FOR THE NPSA

As you will all be aware, the cancellation of all our usual events - the raffle, the summer fair, the BBQ, fireworks display and Christmas Fair – will leave a big hole in the NPSA's coffers, as well as in our calendars. We hope to have some socially-distanced fundraising ideas planned soon, but in the meantime, there are ways in which you can donate to the NPSA for FREE!

1. **Giving machine** - start your shopping with Sainsburys, John Lewis, Tesco, Argos (and lots of other major shops) in <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/newbridge-primary-school/> and a % of your spend will be given to the NPSA for FREE!
2. **Amazon Smile** - start your shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk, nominate the Newbridge Primary School Association as your chosen charity and again a % of your spend will go to the NPSA for FREE.
3. **Company matched giving** - it's worth checking with your employer if they match charity fundraising. If they do, and you'd be happy to use your annual allowance to support the NPSA, please email npsabath@gmail.com

Please keep reading to find out about the 2 applications for the position of Chair of the NPSA

Application for Chair of the NPSA from Katie Smith

Hello everyone, my name is Katie and I am a parent with a child in reception who started this September at Newbridge.

I believe I would be best suited for the role of Chair for the NPSA as I have a first class honours degree in Education Studies and I have 7 years experience working as a teaching assistant from Early Years to Key Stage 2, particularly with children who have special educational needs. This has helped me understand and appreciate the importance of fundraising and the need for the PTA in assisting with this, and strengthening the school community. In addition to this, I volunteered at Oxfam for 3 years so I have good knowledge and experience in the charity sector as well.



I started and ran my own e-commerce business from scratch as well as holding down a part-time job alongside it. This enabled me to become more efficient with time management and hone my organisational skills due to managing my shop website, stock inventory, admin, accounting, performance tracking, maintaining good customer relations and excellent relationships with my manufacturers and printers as well as meeting targets and shipping deadlines.

I am an ex-pupil of Newbridge and already have a good relationship with some of the staff members. Some even taught me themselves.

At present, I am a stay-at-home parent and carer to my Mum. I am always managing my time wisely to fit around my family and understand the pressures of being in a role of responsibility with my current situation.

I am also the Bath ambassador for a single parent community app called Frolo. In this role, I have confidently lead numerous Zoom meetings and organised virtual and in person meet ups for single parents in the local community. I have brought other people on board with joining and using the app through marketing and promotions by liaising with the Frolo team. For instance, last month I was interviewed live on air by BBC Radio Bristol to talk about the app to increase traffic for signing up for it.

I really want to be Chair as I feel passionate and strongly about improving and advancing the education of all our children and understand the importance of having the NPSA when the school is the least funded for its size within the local authority. I believe I have the experience and skill set to lead the committee in achieving their targets and fundraising goals on behalf of the school. I also have the flexibility and time to carry out this role, either solely or shared with a Co-Chair.

Application for Chair of the NPSA from Katherine Wellings

I have been a parent at Newbridge Primary School since January 2013. Although Daisy has left Newbridge and is now in Y8, I still have Henry in Y6, and Elisabeth in Y3. I have been an active volunteer, event organiser, fundraiser, bid writer, Trustee, and Secretary to the NPSA throughout that time.

Prior to moving to Bath, I worked for 15 years in the advertising industry, latterly as Business Director at OgilvyOne. My job involved long hours, big meetings, bigger budgets, complex projects and a fair amount of creativity – I loved it. Many of the skills that were essential then are no less useful now as a freelance marketing strategist and stay at home mum – the budget may be smaller but the hours are longer and parenting is about as complex a project as you can get! More seriously, it has been rewarding to put my project management skills, in particular, to use as a volunteer with the NPSA across an array of events and activities over the last 8 years. The knowledge and experience I have gained by working closely with members of the school leadership team and families alike, has given me a first-hand appreciation of the importance of the NPSA to school life, and plenty of ideas for how we can continue to make a positive contribution.



Jon and I had our first experience of the NPSA at Quiz Night, about a month after Daisy started school in 2013. We were invited to join a team of Ladybirds parents... and we won! More importantly, we had a great night and saw at first-hand how welcoming this school community is, and how hard the NPSA works to bring the community together whilst raising vital money for the school. As a result, the following year, I volunteered to join a new team organising **Quiz Night**, and it was a great success. As a team we organised this event for three years, it was a sell-out every time (moving from the lower school hall to the upper school hall because we needed to squeeze in more tables) and it remains one of the most popular events in the NPSA calendar.

During this period, I became **Class Rep** for Daisy's class, and I did that job alongside Katy Hancock and Tori Nye for six years. In 2015 I became Secretary of the NPSA, and I have done that job for five years, handing over to Mim Wharf after the AGM in July of this year. Over those five years as **Secretary**, I've attended (and minuted) almost every single NPSA meeting, but I've also been directly involved in lots of events and fundraising activities:

- With Emma Puzey and Amy Williams, I organised the inaugural **Newbridge Scarecrow Trail**, now an annual event.
- Working alongside Emma Puzey and Katy Hancock, I organised the **Comedy & Curry Night** and the **Ceilidh**.
- With Amy Osborn I built our pop-up **Santa's Grotto**, enabling us to turn the Grotto into an annual, all-day event.
- For the last five years, I've organised the **Christmas Card project**.
- In 2019, I was one of a team of five friends to complete the **100km Cotswold Way Challenge** to raise money for the NPSA.

Away from the usual Fairs and fun, I have volunteered in other ways at school:

- I am part of the **Grants & Fundraising Team** that was set up to take a long-term view on funding for strategic projects. I used my business background to coordinate the supply and build of the new **Forest School Roundhouse**, I secured a £6k grant for the redevelopment of the courtyard in upper school, and I am still closely involved with the **Wellbeing Space Project**.
- Over the last five months I have worked alongside Louise Broom, Ollie Navias, Fiona Remnant and Sarah Squires to coordinate and manage the **Newbridge foodbank**.
- I have volunteered as a **Better Maths partner**, working in school with children in Y2 and Y6.
- I have attended many of the **Paintforce** and **Groundforce** days organised by Katy Hancock to rejuvenate areas of our school.
- I bring 'Zorro', a Labrador Retriever, into school on a fortnightly basis for **Pets As Therapy** sessions with a group of children.

The school's vision for its pupils is that they will *"take their next steps as caring, creative and healthy young people who will actively and responsibly make a difference to our world."* As a parent I wholeheartedly support that vision, and in volunteering I aim to be a part of making that difference in our children's school environment. I feel fortunate to be able to volunteer regularly within school and it has given me great satisfaction to use my skills for the benefit of our community.

I have decided to stand as Chair of the NPSA because not only am I passionately committed to the aims of our organisation, I also believe I understand the needs of our school and our community, and I have the knowledge and experience to navigate the difficulties that we are facing as a result of the impact of Covid-19.

Having worked closely with Emma Puzey and Amy Osborn – both incredibly talented and dedicated Chairs – I have a very clear idea of the commitment and creativity that this role demands and I know that I have the experience, energy, and passion to build on what we've already created, so would relish the opportunity to lead the Committee as Chair.