



Hiltingbury Schools  
Parent Teacher Association  
Together We Can

16<sup>th</sup> January

HSPTA Newsletter

## Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who supported all our Autumn term events. We had a busy term with lots of brilliant events including an epic laser show, the much-loved Elfridges shopping experience and a fantastic Santa Dash to finish the term! We even managed to squeeze an extra event into the Christmas break - Well done to everyone that took part in Blaze Bramblewhip's Christmas Trail and congratulations to Lucie from Beech class who won the trail prize of a SnowTrax Ringos voucher.

With your support we have already raised a huge amount, and the schools use this money to enrich the children's experiences, so it really does have a positive impact!



**Friday 6th February 2026 @ 7:30pm**

**Infant School Hall**

**£40, 30 or 20 per table (depending on how many in your team) plus a raffle prize!**

Bring your own refreshments and nibbles (alcohol permitted but strictly nut free), some cash for the raffle and have a great social night out!

### Treasurer Update

Thank you to everyone who showed an interest in the treasurer role. We are pleased to confirm that Emma Chard has now taken on the role of treasurer.

### 🕶️ Summer Fayre 🕶️

We know it seems a long way off when the weather is cold and wet, but we have already set a date of **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>** for our summer fayre and there is lots to organise!

We will be on the lookout for volunteers nearer the time but if you are able to help with event planning, please get in touch!

**Ever wondered what goes into planning our big events?** Then read on for a spotlight piece on Spooks and Sparks!

### Contact Details



<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/hspta/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hspta>



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### Spring Term Events

<b>Quiz Night</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Make the Rules Day</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March</b>

# Spotlight on: Spooks and Sparks

## A Record -Breaking Success: £7,000 Raised!

A massive THANK YOU to every parent, teacher, and student who supported our annual Spooks & Sparks event. We were incredibly proud to announce that we cleared over £7,000 in profit! As our biggest fundraiser of the year, this contributes a huge portion of the total we raise annually to improve our schools. Whether you bought a burger, a glowstick, or a ticket, you have made a direct impact on our children's education and environment.



### Behind the Scenes: How it Works

Spooks & Sparks is a massive operation that begins months in advance. Our small committee manages:

- Planning & Logistics: Booking the show, site mapping, and health and safety.
- Stock & Supplies: Sourcing everything for our café, BBQ, and glowstick stall.
- Event Set-up: Setting up tables, stalls, the BBQ and cafe, lighting and signage to make the event safe.
- On-the-Night Operations: Managed by our essential ticket sellers, stall operators and marshals.
- Clean-up: Shutting down and tidying away the stalls, leftover stock and rubbish, including cleaning the BBQs the morning after.

### Looking to 2026: Bringing Back the Fireworks?

This year, our Laser Show received fantastic feedback! It was wonderful to see the community enjoying a fresh take on the event.

Having said that, we have also heard the feedback that many families would love a return to a traditional fireworks display next year. We want to make this happen, but we need your help! Fireworks require a much higher level of safety management and a significantly larger number of Marshals. Simply put, we cannot return to fireworks without more volunteers. We have taken on all your feedback on how to make improvements to the event across the board, but we will need more hands on deck to deliver it safely.

# Ready to Help?



## Join the Crew: Big or Small, It All Counts!

Don't let the "Committee" title put you off - we are a friendly, informal group of parents. We know you are busy, so we've made helping out as easy as possible:

- **WhatsApp Coordination:** Most of our planning happens in a chat group, plus we have an hour-long weekly meeting in the few weeks running up to the show.
- **Targeted Tasks:** You don't have to "run" the show. You can take a tiny task, like "ordering the napkins" or "helping on the gate for 45 minutes."
- **Help us recruit event marshals:** This was our biggest issue this year and we'd love some help to spread the word to spouses, friends and family to get a yellow vest on and help us keep everyone safe on the night.
- **A few extra strong hands on the day:** In particular around lunchtime, to help us with some heavy lifting - putting up stalls, traffic cones and carrying stock and tables.
- **Your Choice:** Start small or take a lead role; we value any time you can give.

**The more the merrier!** Being part of the Spooks team is a great way to meet other parents and feel part of the wider school community. It was hard work this year, but with just a few more volunteers, the load becomes much lighter for everyone.

If you're curious about how you can help—even in a small way—please get in touch. Let's work together to make next year's event the best one yet!

**Contact us on WhatsApp:** [click to join our Spooks & Sparks helper interest group](#)